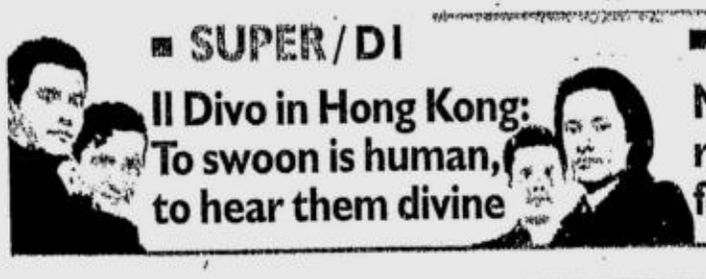

■ SUPER / D1

**Il Divo in Hong Kong: To swoon is human, to hear them divine**

■ ACROSS / A17

**MILF appeals for release of Misuari for health reasons**

■ NEWS / A9

**Nat'l Security Adviser Gonzales: Reds hide behind legal fronts, in Congress**

■ METRO / A22

**Know Metro Manila's 14 accident-prone areas; QC tops 'black spots'**


PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS


## Peso surges to 5-month high: 54.42 to $1

BOOSTED BY A SPURT IN YEAR-END REMITtances from overseas Filipino workers and higher foreign demand for local shares, which pushed the stock index to an eight-month high this week, the peso yesterday surged to its highest level in five months against the US dollar.

The peso closed on Friday at 54.42 to the

PESO/ A6

## Now, President telling reporters who to interview

By Christine O. Avendaño

A DAY AFTER TELLING THE media to stop covering "losers," President Macapagal-Arroyo took matters into her own hands.

NOW/ A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Saturday, November 12, 2005 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 337 P18

website: www.inq7.net

**FIFTH TIME AROUND** for Tessie Sy, daughter of taipan Henry Sy Sr., to be cited among the world's power ladies outside the United States. She's the only Filipina on the list.

## *SM's Sy No. 46 on Fortune mag's list*

FOR THE FIFTH STRAIGHT year, SM'S Teresita "Tessie" Sy made it to Fortune Magazine's annual list of the 50 most powerful women in business outside the United States. She ranked No. 46, up from last year's No. 47. Sy is the only Filipina in the list which includes 23 from Europe, two from the Americas, two from Australia-New Zealand, one from Africa, six from the Middle East, and 16 from Asia. She has been on the Fortune list for the fifth consecutive year.

Sy is the eldest child of taipan Henry Sy Sr, who him-

SM'S SY/ A4

# 'Leave media alone, you are no winner'

## GMA hit from all sides for scolding bearers of bad news

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, TJ Burgonio, Philip C. Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAgal-Arroyo yesterday reaped a whirlwind of criticism from lawmakers for telling the media to cover winners, not losers, and to practice responsible journalism.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel was particularly acerbic: "She's worse than the irresponsible media. At least media hip-shooters don't use government money to silence their targets..."

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the media should lecture Ms Arroyo back.

"She's not a winner by any measure, yet she has the temerity to lecture about being good and fair," Lacson said. "If she wants to read, hear and see one good thing about her, the least she must do is step down to show patriotism and love of country..."

Said Sen. Serge Osmeña, also an opposition senator: "So what else is new? History tells us that tyrants shoot messengers who bring bad news. It does not matter if the news is true."

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan aired the reminder that in a democracy, "the media should not be viewed as the enemy but as an essential feature of a strong and healthy democratic society."

"The challenge to any leader is to exercise a greater degree of patience and perseverance in the face of taunts and criticisms from the press. The leader must learn to persuade and cajole key players in the press to become partners in the effort to move the nation forward. The leader must learn to be cool under fire," Pangilinan said.

He also said Ms Arroyo should

LEAVE/ A4

**"IT'S A LEGAL ASSERTION** and does not reflect true justice or morality," say the bishops of Samar during the press conference at the CBCP main office in Intramuros on Friday. They denounce the lifting of the logging moratorium on Senator Enrile's firm. From left, Jose Palma of the diocese of Calbayog, Emmanuel Trance, diocese of Catarman, Leonardo Madroso, diocese of Borongan and Angel Hobyana, bishop emeritus of Catarman.

# Lifting log ban in Samar even if legal is immoral, unjust, say four bishops

By Leila B. Salaverria

FOR THE FIRST TIME, ALL FOUR Catholic bishops of Samar have taken a collective stance against the government's lifting of the logging moratorium in the province.

The decision allowing the San Jose Timber Corporation to cut trees in a forest reserve and nature park in the area may be legal, but it was not just or moral, four bishops from Samar said during a press conference yesterday at the compound of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines in Intramuros, Manila.

Bishops Jose Palma of the Diocese of Calbayog, Emmanuel Trance of the Diocese of Catarman, Leonardo Medroso of the Diocese of Borongan and Angel Hobayan, Bishop Emeritus of Catarman said that the people of Samar have more rights to its natural resources than a private person or company.

"To say that Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and SJTC have prior rights to the old growth forest is a legal assertion. It does not reflect true justice or morality. In truth, the people of Samar have more prior rights than either," the bishops said in their statement which was read yesterday

LIFTING A8

# Ex-RP envoy to US is lawyer for Marines

By Volt Contreras and Cynthia Balana

A FORMER FILIPINO AMBASsador who used to promote Philippine interests in the United States is serving as legal counsel of six American Marines accused of raping a Filipino woman, an official said yesterday.

On the side of the victim, social welfare officials have tapped the services of two women lawyers who played a key role in a 1996 rape trial that sent a powerful congressman to jail for life for molesting an 11-year-old girl.

The ex-envoy is Raul Rabe. The two women lawyers are Katrina Legarda and Minerva "June" Ambrosio.

Rabe, the country's former ambassador to Washington and former special envoy to the Americas and Organization of Islamic Conference, was one of the two Filipino lawyers assisting the US soldiers, Foreign Undersecretary Zosimo Paredes said.

Paredes' disclosure about the role of Rabe gave an ironic twist to an already highly charged case bound to test the provisions of the 1999 RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement.

The rape case has also become a potentially prickly episode in the relations between the two allied nations.

Visiting US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Eric G. John, acknowledged the alleged rape had raised concerns about an agreement on joint military exer-

EX-RP/ A6

**A WALK IN THE PARK.** US Army Sgt. Calvin Burks walks easy down the American Cemetery all set to get back to his sneakers and jeans after participating in formal Veterans Day rites on Friday. US Veterans Day marks the end, albeit temporary, of hostilities between the Allies and Germany during World War I, which took effect on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

ROGER MARGALLO

SUBIC RAPE CASE

# GMA to DOJ: Don't let suspects leave

By Volt Contreras and Dona Pazzibugan

SEEKING TO PRESERVE WHAT she said is the country's dignity, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered her justice secretary to oppose any effort to move out of the Philippines six US Marines accused of raping a young Filipino woman.

The US Embassy indicated it had no such intention.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said Ms Arroyo had called him. "She told me that we will not agree to transferring them outside the Philippines," he told reporters.

Gonzales said Ms Arroyo had also ordered prosecutors to "protect the dignity of the country" in handling the rape case.

Acting on Malacanang's orders to confirm the servicemen's presence in the country, Foreign Undersecretary Zosimo Paredes said he had seen them during a meeting at the US Embassy.

The impression he got on meeting them was that they looked so young, probably not any older than the 22-year-old woman they are accused of gang-raping on Nov. 1.

The incident has revived old hurts in the sometimes stormy relations between two historic allies.

The six Marines appeared to be "as young as the complainant herself," said Paredes, recalling his meeting with the group the other day.

*"Ang babata na mukhang mga bagong salta* (They're so young that they look like new recruits)," Paredes, an alumnus of the Philippine Military Academy Class '71, told the INQUIRER yesterday in Filipino.

He said that upon orders from Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, he asked for the meeting "not to investigate" the case but just to verify the servicemen's presence in the country.

He said he merely informed the servicemen and the lawyers of the purpose of his coming.

"Until then, we were just taking their (embassy's) word for it (that the soldiers were still

GMA/ A6

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: At 2 p.m. yesterday, Tropical Depression "Ondoy" was estimated based on satellite and surface data at 150 km west southwest of Laoag City with maximum sustained winds of 55 kph near the center. It is forecast to move northwest at 26 kph. Intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ) affecting Mindanao.

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/11/12/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Cloudy with Rains | Iloilo/Bacolod | Cloudy |
| Baguio | Cloudy with Rains | Roxas | Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Cloudy with Rains | Cebu | Cloudy with Rains |
| Laoag | Cloudy with Rains | Tacloban | Cloudy |
| Clark Zone | Cloudy with Rains | Gen. Santos | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tagaytay | Cloudy with Rains | Zamboanga | Cloudy with Rains |
| Legazpi | Cloudy | Cagayan de Oro | Cloudy with Rains |
| Calapan | Cloudy | Davao | Cloudy with Rains |

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Second FRONTPAGE

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# Forensic report: Pasig killing not rubout

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE KILLING OF THREE SUSPECTED CARJACKers in Pasig City on Monday was not a rubout but the result of an exchange of fire with police, the Philippine National Police-Crime Laboratory said yesterday.

"Based on our findings, it was not a rubout," Crime Laboratory head Chief Supt. Ernesto Belen told the INQUIRER shortly after releasing his office's one-page official forensic report. "Two of the three suspects had fired a gun, and one gun tested positive for gunpowder residue."

Belen was referring to the 9-mm pistol police said they recovered from the car of the suspects. The other firearm, a 9mm Ingram, tested negative for gunpowder residue. Three spent shells recovered at the scene also matched the 9-mm pistol found inside the car, he added.

Belen said the gunshot wound on the right leg of Inspector Samson Belmonte indicated there was an exchange of fire.

"Taking all that into account – the testing positive of the suspects, the firing of their gun, and the wounding of the officer – we can conclude that there is no rubout," Belen said. He reiterated the lab report which stated that Brian Anthony Dulay, Anton Cu-Unjeng and Francis Manzano had fired on the police from inside their car.

The report said that Dulay showed gunpowder reside on both his hands, and Cu-Unjeng on his left hand while Manzano bore no residue. It said Dulay was seated on the front passenger's side of the car, Cu-Unjeng on the driver's seat, and Manzano at the back during the alleged exchange of fire.

"All three bodies bore gunshot wounds and bullet fragment wounds in the body and head, but no tattooing was found on either of the bodies, an indication that the shots that killed them were fired from a relative distance," the Crime Laboratory statement said.

Tattooing is created when a person is shot at close range, say two feet or closer, and the skin is burnt as a result.

Dulay sustained a fatal wound in the cheek, Cu-Unjeng on the forehead, and Manzano below the right ear, the report said.

Also found at the crime scene: 16 shells of a 9-mm gun, 54 shells of a M16 and 6 shells of a shotgun.

The findings were released shortly after PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao congratulated the policemen involved in the shootout for a "very good job," even if a fact-finding committee he had formed to determine if the police had violated any rules of engagement had not completed its work.

Lomibao told a news conference he had not yet received the findings and recommendations of the fact-finding committee, which was expected to have announced the results of its investigation yesterday.

Lomibao ordered the inquiry after a video of the incident showed plainclothes officers shooting the alleged carjackers after they had already been immobilized and appeared slumped on their backs.

But even before the committee could end its inquiry, the PNP brass had ordered the 10 officers involved in the alleged shootout to return to work. They had been relieved earlier of their functions earlier.

Lomibao defended this decision, saying he did not want to demoralize the men.

"I have personally instructed the TMG to conduct a no-nonsense and relentless campaign, and with this as a result of our relentless campaign, then we have to congratulate the TMG for doing a very good job," he added.

Lomibao said he would welcome any move by the families of the slain suspects to sue the police, saying that was their right, especially if they believed the TMG men were wrong.

## Solons to US: Give up Marines then lecture us

By TJ Burgonio

WHEN THE UNITED STATES gives up for investigation the six US Marines accused of raping a Filipina, it can lecture the Philippines all it can about moral issues, according to two administration senators.

The senators were reacting to a recent statement from Scott Bellard, the US Embassy deputy chief of mission, that the Philippines was not doing enough to curb human trafficking, noting that it has so far failed to prosecute anybody for the crime.

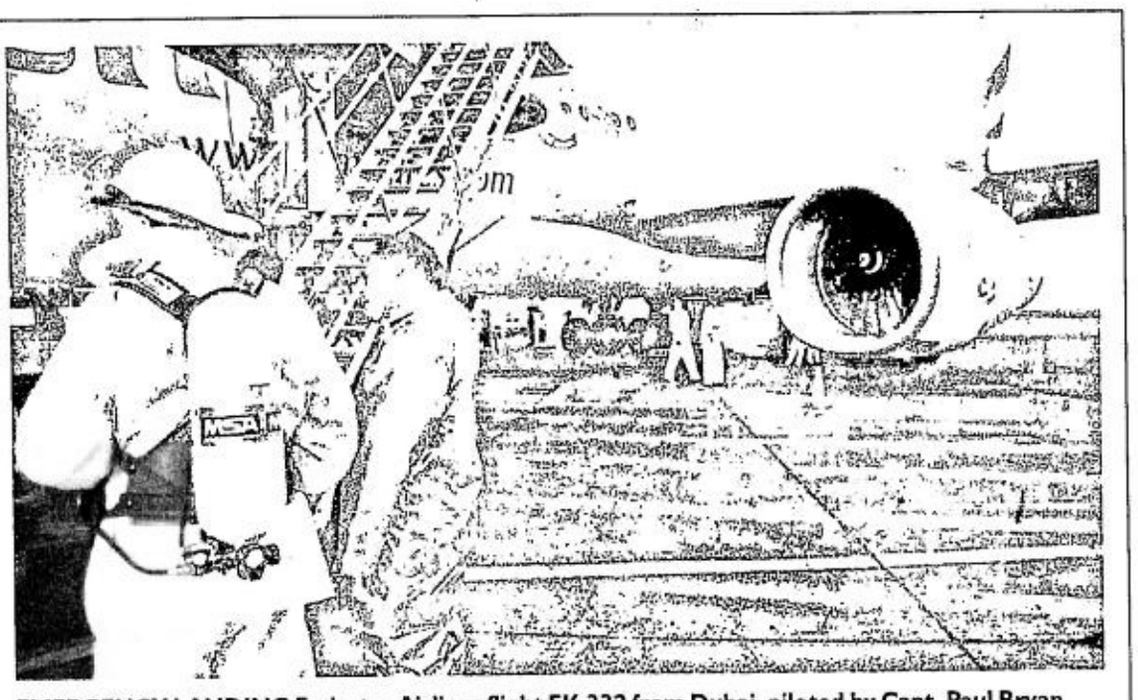
Sen. Joker Arroyo shot back that the US was in "no position" to lecture the Philippines on moral issues as it has so far failed to produce the six US Marines accused in the Nov. 1 rape of a young Filipina in Zambales.

"They can't even take care of the sex offenders, called sexual terrorists," said Arroyo.

When it finally decides to bring the accused for preliminary investigation, the US government can again "tell us what's wrong with us," the senator said.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, the chair of the Senate foreign relations committee, scoffed at the statement from Bellard.

"If we're going to start washing dirty linen in public, let's make it mutual," she said.



EMERGENCY LANDING Emirates Airlines flight EK-332 from Dubai, piloted by Capt. Paul Bryan Murray Jr., safely lands at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) despite a hydraulic leak in its landing gear. ROGER MARGALLO

## Boncodin to testify on fertilizer scam

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

FORMER BUDGET SECRETARY Emilia Boncodin is set to testify before the Senate committee on agriculture which is investigating the P728 million fertilizer fund allegedly used to bankroll President Macapagal-Arroyo's presidential campaign in 2004.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., committee chair, said that Boncodin has assured him that she would attend the hearing on Thursday after failing to show up in the first two hearings due to poor health and confinement at the National Kidney Transplant Institute.

Magsaysay has invited Boncodin to the third and final hearing on the alleged misuse of the fertilizer fund for Ms Arroyo's election.

"Your testimony will be very relevant as it is the key to the committee's search for truth in the utilization of the fertilizer fund and the same would eventually redound to the welfare of the Filipino farmers in charting appropriate policies and guidelines vis-a-vis the fund," Magsaysay said in a letter formally inviting Boncodin to the hearing.

Boncodin was the budget secretary when the funds, said to be in billions of pesos, were disbursed in February 2004 or three months before the elections.

# Terror suspect offers to turn state witness

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE is evaluating the offer of a member of the Raha Solaiman Movement to turn state witness in a newly opened trial of a group of alleged terrorists said to be planning bomb attacks in Metro Manila, in exchange for the dropping of charges against him.

Malik Alimuddin, 27, would testify on the alleged plans of the RSM to bomb several places in Metro Manila and other parts of the country as well on the opening of a bank account in his name for funneling funds from the Jemaah Islamiyah terror group in Indonesia, according to Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco.

"We're considering [if] he's qualified to become a state witness. We're evaluating his extrajudicial confession," DOJ Secretary Raul Gonzalez told reporters after Velasco presented Alimuddin to him yesterday.

"We will find out if his statement is necessary or important and meets the requirements of the rules of court for somebody to be considered as state witness," Gonzalez added.

He said his decision would also depend on the extent of Alimuddin's involvement with the RSM's alleged terrorist activities. This involvement could be by direct participation, indispensable cooperation or by inducement, Gonzalez added.

The RSM is a group of Muslim converts accused by the authorities to have connections with the Abu Sayyaf Group and the Indonesia-based Jemaah Islamiyah, both of which have been linked to the al-Qaeda worldwide terrorist network.

Alimuddin pleaded not guilty when arraigned on charges of illegal possession of explosives and rebellion at the Makati City Regional Trial Court on Wednesday.

Velasco said Alimuddin's lawyer, Raymond Palad, had informed the prosecution that the suspect was willing to plead guilty if the DOJ approved his offer to turn state witness and discharged him from the case.

A forestry graduate taking up a nursing course, Alimuddin was arrested in Zamboanga City on Oct. 27, along with RSM leader Hilarion Santos, alias "Ahmed" and "Apo Lakay," Nurrurija Amdal Ibba, Hannah Santos, Mursidi Balao, Ismael Idiris, Anne Anover, and Bodot Abdullah, all of whom have been charged in the same case as Alimuddin.

The suspects' hideout yielded a cache of arms, including antitank rockets and blasting caps, a map of Metro Manila, other devices and documents, police said.

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# De Castro's votes in Lanao del Sur padded – Loren

By Cynthia D. Balana

FORMER SEN. LOREN LEGARDA YESTERday claimed that Vice President Noli de Castro's votes in Lanao del Sur during the May 2004 vice presidential election were padded by about 41,000 votes based on a recount of votes by her lawyers.

Legarda made the statement after the Supreme Court, sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET), postponed anew the recount of votes for the province in order to act on her motion to exclude Lanao del Norte and Surigao del Sur from her protest.

"I'm 110 percent positive that in the Lanao del Sur recount alone, the nation would be afforded a most damning proof that my rival benefited from massive cheating in the 2004 elections," Legarda said.

She cited the findings of her lawyers and documents experts who had thoroughly examined copies of election returns from the said province.

She said that while De Castro benefited from "Dagdag-bawas" operations in Lanao del Sur, she maintained that the recount for Cebu would show that the administration also used pre-fabricated election returns.

Legarda wanted the Cebu recount to begin immediately after the Lanao del Sur revision of votes since the number of votes there would be more than enough to surpass the 880,000 "margin" of De Castro over her in the national tally.

Legarda also laughed off allegations that it was she who had the same number of votes as President Macapagal-Arroyo in a municipality of Lanao del Sur, thus, making it appear that it was she who allegedly benefited from fraud.

She described it as an "aberration, a mistake committed by an administration operator" since a recount for the whole of Lanao would show that De Castro amassed thousands of votes through cheating.

# Greenpeace mulls raps vs Masinloc guards

By Blanche S. Rivera

GREENPEACE, THE ENVIRONMENTAL activist group, is considering filing charges against the security guards who beat up a German volunteer during a protest against "dirty energy" in the state-run Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales.

The violent encounter between the National Power Corp. guards and 16 Greenpeace activists on Thursday was "the most severe attack" against its campaigners in the Philippines, said Red Constantino, Greenpeace's Southeast Asia energy campaigner.

"The security personnel put the safety of the activists at extreme risk," Constantino said in a phone interview.

"It's a state facility, in which case maximum tolerance should be observed. The fact that atrocious violence was instigated by plant personnel is something Greenpeace condemns," he said.

The Napocor operates the 600-megawatt coal-fired plant which supplies power to the whole of Luzon, including Metro Manila.

Greenpeace is opposed to coal-fired power plants, which are among the biggest causes of global warming. Experts have said that rising global temperatures and changes in weather patterns could have drastic effects on every living thing on earth.

The group has been urging the Philippines to shift from coal power plants to new and renewable energy sources.

A group of some 16 Greenpeace activists entered the plant's compound early Thursday to put up a climate change campaign streamer but ran up against the plant's guards.

Jens Loewe, the German volunteer, ended up badly beaten and hit on the face and head with a steel bar, said Greenpeace.

Three women volunteers were also injured after guards pelted them with stones, it said.

Another volunteer, Tomas Leonor, was hit with a rifle butt on his back, Greenpeace said.

Their injuries are not considered serious, however.

Constantino said the group was thinking about filing suit, "but right now, we're more concerned with determining the well-being of our activists."

He said there have been similar reactions to Greenpeace protests, but they were not as violent as the Masinloc incident.

"This has been the most severe attack on activists (in the Philippines). We reiterate that Greenpeace is a peaceful campaigns organization," Constantino said.

The Napocor contended that the Greenpeace activists had placed the plant's operations at risk by entering a strictly off-limits zone.

Loewe, who arrived in Manila about a week ago, is still "shaken up," but is out of the hospital. He has been prohibited by his doctors to travel, however.

"Whether we would file charges or not is secondary. It is something that we will have to discuss as an organization. It's not going to be an individual's charge," he said.

The Masinloc police has beaten them to it, however, charging 12 Greenpeace members and volunteers with "other forms of trespass" late Thursday.

All 12 Greenpeace members, including volunteers from Australia, China and Thailand, were ordered released by the court.

Constantino said the Greenpeace activists went to the Masinloc police station about 9 a.m. Thursday to seek help for Loewe, who was being beaten up by Napocor guards.

Instead, the activists were detained by police until 4 p.m. without any charges, he said.

"We're all in high spirits despite the bodily (attacks). As long as the government intends to expand more coal-fired power plants, our campaign will continue. It will intensify," Constantino said.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### No more taxes

MALACAÑANG yesterday shot down proposals to impose more taxes such as a tax on text messages, saying the expanded value added tax (EVAT) was already enough to boost the country's revenues. "I believe the present laws we have already passed like the VAT, if this is just implemented to the fullest, will be sufficient to give us the revenues to subsidize or to be spent for our basic services," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye. Sen. Richard Gordon has revived a proposal to slap a P1 tax on cell phone text messages. "The VAT law that has been passed is good and will respond to our needs," Bunye said.

*Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

### Emergency landing

AN EMIRATES Airlines flight with 271 passengers and 12 crew members on board made a safe emergency landing yesterday afternoon at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 1 despite a hydraulic leak problem with the aircraft's landing gear. The Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) operations center said that Emirates flight EK 332 from Dubai touched down at 4:10 p.m. at the Naia runway 06 without any incident. The Airbus 330-200, which was scheduled to arrive at 3:30 p.m., had to be towed to the terminal bay.

*Nikko Dizon*

### Tofil awardees

THE PHILIPPINE Jaycee Senate and The Insular Life Assurance Company Ltd. selected three pacesetters from diverse fields who share a common passion for excellence and community service as the Outstanding Filipino (Tofil) awardees for 2005. They are H.E. Ambassador Lauro L. Baja Jr. for Bilateral and Multilateral Diplomacy, Dr. Adolfo B. Bellosillo, M.D. for Medicine, and Mr. Benjamin S. Farrales for Fashion, Arts and Culture. Baja is the permanent representative of the Philippines to the United Nations and is a well-respected figure in diplomatic circles. Bellosillo, a medical practitioner for 36 years, established the Foundation for Lay Education on Heart Diseases (FLEHD) in February 2000 to spread the idea of education as a means of avoiding heart diseases. Hailed as the Dean of Philippine Fashion, Benjamin S. Farrales has been at the forefront of fashion scene for 53 years. He contributed greatly to the integration of indigenous materials and designs.

### Balikbayan nabbed

A BALIKBAYAN bound for Saipan was apprehended Thursday night at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) after 98 pieces of *balisong*, the traditional Filipino fan knives, were discovered inside her balikbayan box.

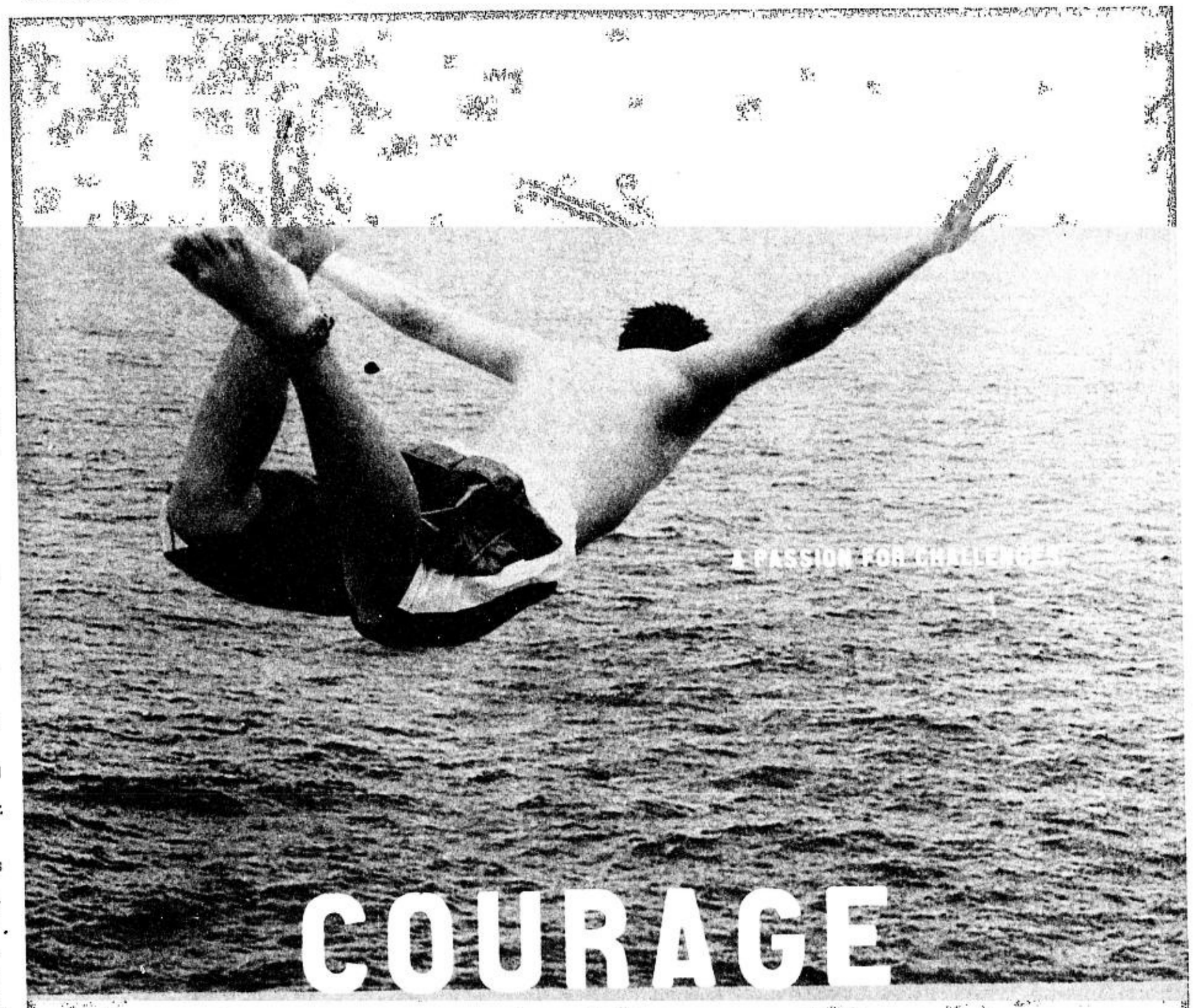
Sonia Kroul, 46, a businesswoman, claimed that she intended to sell the fan knives to Filipinos in Saipan, Supt. Pablo Francisco Balagtas, chief of the 1st Police Center for Aviation Security (PCAS), said in a phone interview. Kroul, a passenger of Continental Micronesia flight CO 890, was having her luggage inspected when the x-ray operator detected the knives. Police charged Kroul with violation illegal possession of deadly weapons.

*Nikko Dizon*

### Pinoy fugitive

THE TAIWANESE POLICE recently arrested a Filipino wanted for murder in the Philippines, the police said yesterday. Police Director Rodolfo Garcia identified the fugitive as Virgilio Diones. He was accused of killing Erlinda Merin de Leon in Calapandaya in Subic, Zambales last Sept. 9. Diones fled to Taiwan, where his daughter lives, on Sept. 17. The police then notified the Interpol office of the Taiwanese Police who arrested the fugitive on Nov. 4 and repatriated him to the Philippines.

*Luige A. del Puerto*

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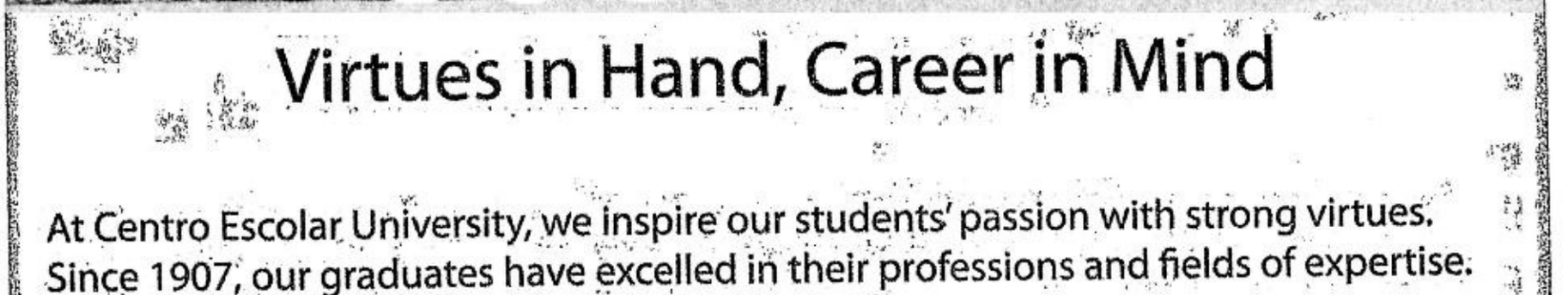

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- NOVEMBER 12, 2005 9am at St. Scholastica's Academy (San Fernando City, Pampanga) Contact person Ms. Regina Calderon 045.961.3230 / 8601711
- NOVEMBER 19, 2005 9am at St. Joseph College (Olongapo City) Contact person Ms. Lourdes Domingo 047.223.5486
- NOVEMBER 26, 2005 9am at Tomas del Rosario College (Balanga City, Bataan) Contact person Ms. Hermie M. Galit 047.237.6021
- DECEMBER 10, 2005 10am at College of the Immaculate Conception (Cabanatuan City) Contact person Ms. Sherry Ann dela Cruz 044.463.8120 loc. 111

# SM's Sy No. 46 on Fortune mag's list

From page A1

self is on Forbes Magazine's latest list of the world's 500 richest people with a ranking of No. 355. The older Sy and his family are worth $1.9 billion, according to the magazine.

Sy is vice chair of SM Investments Corp., the holding company of the SM Group, which made market history early this year with the largest Initial Public Offering at the Philippine Stock Exchange. In the group founded in 1958 by her father, she holds key positions as president of SM Inc., its retail group; and as director of SM Prime Holdings, which owns and operates its chains of supermalls.

Until recently, she was chair of the group's main bank, Banco de Oro Universal Bank, which is fast becoming one of the country's top banks through strategic mergers and acquisitions. These include substantial shares in Equitable PCI Bank, where she is a director, and the local branch unit of Singapore's United Overseas Bank.

"[The year] 2005 [is] a banner year for women," writes Fortune's Jenny Mero in the magazine's Nov. 21 issue. "Around the world, more and more women are laying claim to important positions in big companies ... Women were given the top jobs at two global 500 companies in Japan—supermarket chain Daiei and electronic giant Sanyo—a country not known for gender equality in its corporate suites."

Heading the world's 50 most powerful women in business are: Anne Lauvergeon, chair of France's Areva, the world's largest nuclear technology company; Xie Qihua, chair of the Shanghai Baosteel Group; Marjorie Scardino, CEO of Pearson, the British publishing and education company; Linda Cook, executive director, Gas and Power of Royal Dutch Shell; and Tomoyo Nonaka, chair and CEO of Japan's Sanyo Electronic.

Leading America's top 50 are: eBay chair and CEO Meg Whitman; Xerox chair and CEO Anne Mulcahy; Sara Lee president and CEO Brenda Barnes; Harpo chair Oprah Winfrey; and Avon chair and CEO Andrea Jung.

Martha Stewart, founder of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, host of primetime show "The Apprentice: Martha Stewart" and convicted felon was also in the US list with the rank of No. 21.

# 'Leave media alone, you're no winner'

From page A1

be told that "hitting the press" was "an exercise in futility."

"She must be reminded that many presidents before her had picked fights with the press, and that these presidents are no longer around yet the press remains alive and kicking," he added.

## Dousing the fire

In a combative speech in Baguio the other day, the President fired broadsides at the media for supposedly giving priority to "kangaroo courts, lynch mobs and witch-hunts" instead of her administration's accomplishments.

Lawmakers in the administration coalition yesterday sought to douse the potential brush fire.

Rep. Douglas Cagas (NPC, Davao del Sur) said that instead of being the media's "antagonist," the President should try to be the "darling of the press."

"We believe this is achievable because of the President's deep concern for media practitioners, as shown by her personal involvement in the probes of [the killing of journalists]," he said.

Cagas said he expected the media to still "come around" and be more supportive of Ms Arroyo.

He said the President's criticism of the media was actually a tacit acknowledgement of the Fourth Estate's power and the administration's firm intent to respect freedom of information.

He also said the President could not be faulted for airing her gripes against the media because negative reports had seemingly overshadowed the many good developments in the country.

Rep. Edwin Uy (Lakas, Isabela) proposed a dialogue between Ms Arroyo and leaders of media outfits to ease the tension.

"The President will earn more enemies and negative publicity if she continues to attack the Fourth Estate," Uy said. "A conciliatory approach or her use of a charm offensive is better in promoting a harmonious relationship with the media."

## Doing the job

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said it was natural for Ms Arroyo to expect the media to report "positive news" about her administration, but pointed out that she should not take issue with how journalists wanted to play their role.

"The media are merely reporting what they believe are important and critical events, and setting aside those intended for marketing [or] advertising purposes," he said.

Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II agreed with Magsaysay's view, saying: "What I think is that the media are only doing their job. What is important is that we don't bury the truth because the truth is the base of democracy."

Roxas said the media should be left alone to report the news, "good or bad," so that the people could make informed decisions.

Opposition Sen. Jamby Madrigal said Ms Arroyo's speech before the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas was "unfair and tainted with malice."

"The media are not the cause of her problems. She only has her administration to blame for whatever is being reported. While the so-called Fourth Estate is not by itself perfect, the media should not be threatened and cajoled by persons who have the resources to stifle the truth," Madrigal said, adding:

"Is Ms Arroyo laying the groundwork for her to take over the media under the guise of public interest?"

Opposition Sen. Jinggoy Estrada said Ms Arroyo should not fault the media for reporting the negative side of her administration.

## Attacking press freedom

"They should do something good. Then, perhaps, they can expect positive write-ups," he said.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero (NPC, Sorsogon) and Representatives Alan Peter Cayetano (NP, Taguig-Pateros) and Gilbert Remulla (NP, Cavite) said Ms Arroyo's speech was an attack on press freedom.

Cayetano said the House minority would formally ask the President on Monday to apologize to the media. He said not correcting the President would only embolden her and her administration to muzzle the press and thus endanger Philippine democracy.

"What the President did was immoral, unethical and an affront to democracy and freedom of the press," Cayetano said.

He said Ms Arroyo's statements were "veiled threats" that the government would later go after journalists who continued to criticize her.

Escudero said the President's statements showed that she was clinging to her office and was prepared to attack anyone suggesting that she step down.

"It's not her business to lecture the media. She should leave the media alone to do its job. She should just also do her job instead of simply trying to keep it," Escudero said.

Remulla, a former broadcast journalist, said Ms Arroyo erred in claiming that the media had a "bad boy image."

"Just because it reports bad news?" Remulla said. "Reporting bad news about her does not make the media a bad boy. Seeking the truth does not make media the villain. Those who obstruct block and hide the truth are the villain."

## Waging war

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said the President had only herself to blame for being "the most consistent and biggest source of bad news."

He described the President's criticism of the media as a signal of "a brewing war against press freedom."

"First, Ms Arroyo wants the media to accept she won cleanly last year. Now, she wants the media to cover only what she does even if they're fake or empty or simply *kuryente* (a bum steer)," he said.

Ocampo, a former vice president of the National Press Club and one of the activist journalists who fought against the Marcos dictatorship, urged the public to support the media in defending press freedom "against aspiring tyrants like Ms Arroyo."

"Because she's hiding the truth, Ms Arroyo is demonizing the media and all those who seek the truth," he said.

If the media are the "bad guys," then Ms Arroyo is the "bad girl," according to Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño.

"And when her media spinners can't make good things out of her, she blames everyone but herself," Casiño said.

Addressing the President, he added: "Play it sport with the media. They are your best friends. But if you're bad, they're meaner."

## Behaving irresponsibly

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Anne Rosales said the President had no credibility to lecture the media on responsible journalism.

"An understanding of responsible Philippine journalism cannot be a monopoly of the President, because if the President starts interpreting the [Citizens Congress for Truth and accountability] as a 'kangaroo court,' she herself is already behaving irresponsibly," Rosales said in an interview over radio station dyLA based in Cebu City.

"She cannot claim to have a monopoly of an understanding of responsible journalism when she herself does not know what it means to be a responsible president." *With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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# Gudani, Balutan won't appear before Citizen's Congress

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

RETIRED BRIG. GEN. FRANCISco Gudani will no longer participate in the so-called "people's court" trying President Macapagal-Arroyo for alleged electoral fraud and corruption.

Lawyer Napoleon Poblador yesterday said there was no more need for his clients, Gudani and Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan, to appear before the Citizen's Congress for Truth and Accountability (CCTA) since they have already given their testimonies before the Senate.

The two Marine officers divulged before a Senate hearing last Sept. 28 an alleged conspiracy to ensure Ms Arroyo's election victory in Lanao Del Sur.

They are now facing court-martial for defying orders from the President herself against testifying before the Senate without her approval.

"Their testimonies before the Senate are recorded. The so-called people's court can get certified copies of these. We don't feel the need for them to participate in any such a activity considering they're extremely busy defending themselves," Poblador told reporters yesterday at the start of their pre-trial investigation.

The lead military prosecutor, Col. Gilberto Jose Roa deferred the pre-trial investigation to Nov. 21 since Gudani and Balutan have earlier asked the Supreme Court to stop the proceedings.

On Thursday, the two officers sought an injunction against the court-martial proceedings as they questioned the legality of Executive Order 464 which bars all government officials, including those in the military and police, from testifying in congressional hearings without the President's prior approval.

EO 464 was formally issued after the verbal order was relayed to Gudani and Balutan not to testify before the Senate.

"This office cannot proceed before the legality of this executive order is decided by the Supreme Court," Poblador told Roa during yesterday's hearing.

Roa, however, refused to stop the proceedings and gave Gudani and Balutan five working days or until Nov. 21, to answer charges of violation of Article of War 65 or willful disobedience of a superior officer.

# Oil firms cut prices anew

MOTORISTS WILL HAVE AN early Christmas gift as oil companies, for the third time this month, reduced pump prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos a liter.

New players Seaoil Petroleum Corp. and Eastern Petroleum Corp. led the latest price rollbacks, adjusting fuel prices late last night.

Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell, Caltex, Total, Flying V and Unioil followed suit, implementing the same price reduction for the same products at just after midnight last night.

All price adjustments are already inclusive of the value-added tax (VAT).

Since Nov. 1, the first day of the implementation of the VAT on petroleum products, oil firms have brought down gasoline prices by P1.85 a liter and diesel and kerosene prices by P1.60 a liter.

The companies cited the continued softening of world crude and product prices, and the strengthening of the peso as the reasons for the rollbacks.

Unlike fuel prices, however, the international contract price of liquefied petroleum gas surged to an all-time high of $549 per metric ton, from $519 per MT last month.

This prompted Shell and Caltex to again raise cooking gas prices by P1 per kilogram, VAT-exclusive.

Total also hiked LPG prices by P1.10 per kilogram, VAT-inclusive. *Abigail L. Ho*


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# Senators dispute DFA stand on detention of 6 US Marines

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

ADMINISTRATION SENATORS yesterday disputed the contention of Department of Foreign Affairs and US Embassy officials that the Visiting Forces Agreement does not require the detention in the country of offending US servicemen.

Sen. Mar Roxas said transcripts of the Senate deliberations on the VFA clearly showed the Philippines had the choice of custody and could deny US request for custody in extraordinary cases, such as heinous crimes.

"I am not a lawyer but from my readings on the VFA, the custody of any US personnel is given to the US if they so request but this request is subject to evaluation and determination by the Philippines. In other words, the Philippines has the choice of custody," Roxas said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon earlier referred to the May 10, 1999 transcripts of the Senate, which ratified the VFA, to assert the Philippines had primary jurisdiction of the six US Marines accused of raping a young Filipino woman in Subic.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago also said the statement of a DFA official on the matter was "too simplistic" and betrayed a lack of clear understanding of the terms of the VFA. She said that while the United States could request custody, the Philippines could grant or reject it.

### Ople's clarification

Roxas said the late Sen. Blas Ople, then chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, clarified the meaning of custody during interpellations by the late Sen. Rene Cayetano.

Roxas pointed out that Ople and Cayetano interpreted Article V, Section 6 of the VFA which said "the custody of the United States personnel over whom the Philippines is to exercise jurisdiction shall immediately reside with the United States military authorities, if they so request, from the commission of the offense until the completion of all judicial proceedings."

### No surrender

Ople explained thus: "We do not surrender custody except upon request. Of course this request must be evaluated and, therefore, at no point do we relinquish our effective control."

Biazon also pointed out that in its preamble, Senate Resolution No. 18 ratifying the VFA emphasized Philippine jurisdiction.

He said it was clear from the Senate transcripts that the Philippines should maintain primary jurisdiction and custody over the accused Marines.

### Bill of rights

According to laywer Neri Colmenares, a leader of the Counsels for the Defense of Liberties, the VFA may not contain anything about the Philippine government being mandated to have custody of the US servicemen but the Constitution sure does.

Colmenares said the Bill of Rights shows that being released on bail or recognizance is reserved only for those who commit non-capital crimes or those guilt is not supported by strong evidence.

"Should a Philippine court find the evidence of guilt strong against the US soldiers, they have to be placed in Philippine prison like everybody else in similar circumstances," Colmenares said.

*With a report from Norman Bordadora*

# GMA to DOJ: Don't let suspects leave

From page A1

here)," Paredes said.

By his reckoning, he said, their average age must also be around 22 years old. The most senior-looking was the one identified in the rape complaint as Carpenter, he said.

The six servicemen have been subpoenaed to appear before Olongapo City prosecutors on Nov. 23 and 29 in connection with the alleged rape of the woman in a van in the Subic Bay Freeport.

In his capacity as executive director of the Presidential Commission of the Visiting Forces Agreement, Paredes said, he met the six accused and their "two Filipino lawyers," at around 9:30 a.m. Thursday.

Later, Paredes had a one-on-one meeting with US Chargé d'Affaires Paul Jones who, he said, assured him that "they won't let one case destroy the relationship of nations."

Paredes said he did not talk with any of the servicemen or with their lawyers *(Story on Page A1)*, whom Paredes did not identify. He was introduced to them by Paul O'friel, the embassy's political officer.

### In civilian clothes

The soldiers maintained silence during the meeting that lasted less than an hour in one of the embassy's conference rooms, he recounted.

He said he could not tell the soldiers' ranks as they were in civilian clothes when presented at the meeting. In previous interviews, the undersecretary said he was certain they were enlisted men and not officers.

In his meeting with Jones, Paredes said the American diplomat was *"nasasaktan"* (hurt) when media reports on the rape case tend to "give the impression that the US is running away from responsibility."

### No intention

Following reports that unofficial requests had been made to transfer the six accused to their Marines home base in Okinawa, Japan, Paredes said his conversation with Jones revealed "no intention like that."

The US Embassy and Paredes himself have denied the reports.

Later, in a radio interview, Paredes said that if not for the Visiting Forces Agreement ratified in 1999, US soldiers, like those accused in the Olongapo City rape case, "could have long escaped, just like what happened during the time of the US bases."

### US also investigating

Paredes was referring to past cases of American servicemen being able to leave the country despite pending criminal cases rousing the wrath of Filipino nationalists.

A spokesperson for the US 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, to which the suspects are assigned, said American authorities were also holding a parallel investigation of the suspects, but gave no details.

"We have our Naval Criminal Investigation Service also investigating for the US side and then the Philippines on their side is investigating," Capt. Burrell Parmer said in a chance interview in Camp Aguinaldo.

Parmer said the US Embassy and the Department of State are the lead agencies in the American investigation.

He said the six suspects had already given their statements to investigators, but he refused to divulge what the suspects said.

### Possible court-martial

Parmer said he personally talked to the suspects but again would not give details.

In response to a question, Parmer said the six could possibly face court-martial if the investigation found enough evidence against them.

"It's possible but like I said, we have to wait until the investigation is over," Palmer said. "We know that there are preliminary hearings (in Olongapo) ... so we have to wait until that time. Let's see what happens."

Reporters chanced upon Parmer at the Armed Forces public information office where he distributed magazines about the recently concluded joint military exercises dubbed Talon Vision and Amphibious Landing Exercise.

### Embassy clearance needed

The six rape suspects are part of the American unit that participated in the exercises.

The rape complaint filed with Olongapo prosecutor's office identified the US servicemen as Keith Silkwood, Daniel Smith, Albert Lara, Dominic Duplantis, Corey Barris and Chad Carpenter.

Parmer declined to give any information about the six suspects, not even their ranks and years in the service.

"I've said it's an alleged incident that is under investigation. We cannot disclose the names or personal information about the six Marines until the embassy gives us clearance," he said.

Parmer again hedged when asked if the six Marines were under detention.

"What I could say right now is that they are under custody. I can't disclose what type of custody they may be. The embassy would give you a better answer," he said.

*With a report from Reuters*

# Ex-RP envoy to US is lawyer for Marines

From page A1

cises in the country but his talks with President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday did not focus on the case.

"The issue of the Marines — I did not come here for that purpose," he said.

The six Marines were served subpoenas on Wednesday on allegations that they raped a 22-year-old graduate of the Ateneo de Davao University while the girl was vacationing in the former US naval base, now a recreation hub.

Paredes, who earlier said the American servicemen had hired two Filipino lawyers, met the six accused on Thursday at the US Embassy.

Asked yesterday who were the Filipino lawyers, Paredes gave the name of Rabe.

"He was there [at the meeting] and he was recognized by one of my companions," Paredes told the INQUIRER.

### Legarda and Ambrosio

Paredes said he did not talk with Rabe, the other Filipino lawyer, or any of the soldiers during that meeting.

Rabe was ambassador to the United States from 1993 to 1999.

The INQUIRER called Rabe's office at the Rodrigo Berenguer & Guno law firm twice in the afternoon office hours, but the calls were not returned as of last night. A secretary said Rabe was out in a meeting.

Acting DSWD Secretary Lualhati Pablo said Legarda and Ambrosio had both agreed to provide their legal services pro bono.

Both Legarda and Ambrosio served as counsel for a minor who accused then Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Romeo Jalosjos of sexually molesting her.

In December 1997, Jalosjos was sentenced to life imprisonment and an additional eight to 15 years for each of six counts of acts of lasciviousness.

### High profile cases

A graduate of the University of Bristol, England and of the University of the Philippines, Legarda also made her mark in 1987 when she successfully defended journalists Max Soliven and the late Louie Beltran in a libel case filed against the Philippine Star by then President Cory Aquino.

Ambrosio has been involved in more than 1,000 rape cases involving minor girls as victims.

Pablo said the DSWD had a contract with the Child Justice League chaired by Legarda to provide legal assistance to victims of abuses.

She said the DSWD usually tapped Legarda's services in high profile or controversial cases.

Aside from the legal services, the DSWD has also been providing crisis counseling services to the rape victim since Nov. 5.

### Strong but traumatized

"The victim is coping very well. She's a strong young woman but she's of course traumatized. She's coping and she's functioning, but she still needs privacy," Pablo said in a press conference.

She said the DSWD was also providing regular counseling to the victim's family to enable them to cope with what happened to their child.

"We don't coach. We counsel," she stressed.

She said the victim's mother had lamented the invasion of the family privacy by the media and was disgusted at how the media was treating the case of her daughter through insinuations.

Pablo refused to talk about the chances of the victim to win her case against the Americans, saying the DSWD was leaving the legal aspect of the case to Legarda. (With a report from The AP)

MEDIA GROUP TELLS PRESIDENT

# 'You have no right to dictate on us what stories to report'

THE NATIONAL UNION OF Journalists of the Philippines has issued a fighting rejoinder to President Macapagal-Arroyo's portrayal of the media as "a bad boy" covering "kangaroo courts, lynch mobs and witch-hunts."

"Madam President, the Philippine media are doing their best to be true to our job to report what is going on in this country," Jose Torres Jr., chair of the NUJP's Commission for the Protection of Journalists, said in a statement posted on the NUJP website.

"If ever these reports hurt you or your administration, take a second look before firing your guns. Something must be wrong with what your administration has been doing," he said.

Torres said that while the NUJP appreciated the President's campaign against terror, it seemed that she had been training "her guns" even at the innocent, including journalists.

He also said the President's promises to the media—such as the P5-million fund for slain journalists and the quick-reaction team to address media killings and harassment—had yet to materialize.

He added: "Yes, some journalists have 'arrogated the license to fire away at anybody.' We are doing our best to check this and discipline our ranks, but you have no right, Madam President, to dictate on us what stories to report."

### Boycott

Reacting to the President's speech, the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan suggested that the media boycott Ms Arroyo and her activities.

"The real problem today is bad governance coming from a bad President. Most of the bad news comes from her. Following her request of not covering 'bad news,' maybe the media should boycott Ms Arroyo, even for just one day," said Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr.

"Maybe that will teach her a lesson," he said.

Reyes said that through her remarks, Ms Arroyo had insulted the media, particularly those who were risking their lives to deliver the news.

"Media freedom cannot be tailor-fit to the whims and sensitivities of the President. What Ms Arroyo wants is a friendly and co-opted media. She must be reminded that no president, not even the dictator [Ferdinand] Marcos, has ever succeeded in silencing or co-opting the media," Reyes said. Norman Bordadora

# Now, President telling reporters who to interview

From page A1

On a last-minute visit to the job fair at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City, the known micromanager made sure that reporters would interview employers offering jobs.

Ms Arroyo looked in on the booths at the fair organized under the labor department's Labor Opportunities Program and was overheard asking her aides where the reporters were.

With photographers and TV crews trailing her, she spotted a group of reporters and, on separate occasions, hauled off three of them to certain employers for interviews.

According to one reporter, Ms Arroyo told her to include the interview in her report.

"It's as if she was telling us what to do," said the reporter who asked not to be named.

ABS-CBN's Miranda de Quiros, who was also at the event, said the reporters could not help but give in to the President's request.

"In a way, we were put on the spot," De Quiros said.

### Achievers

Asked later to comment on the incident, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye surmised that the President wanted the employers to be interviewed because they were achievers.

"The [job fair] itself is supposed to make Filipinos feel good about the achievements of their compatriots. And there are quite a number of them who have been successful in various fields, especially our Filipino compatriots who have made names for themselves outside the Philippines," Bunye said at a news briefing in Malacañang.

He went on to say that the media should interview Filipino achievers to find out their stories.

### Selectivity

But Msgr. Achilles Dakay, media liaison officer of the Cebu Archdiocese, said the media could not be selective in their reports and should include even negative developments in their coverage.

He said the media were only reporting what was happening in the country.

Dakay said the President apparently wanted to impose restrictions on what to report when she took a swipe at the media for covering the sessions of the Citizens Congress for Truth and Accountability (CCTA).

He said the President could not dictate on the media what to report. At that same time, he said, the media should not be dictated to.

He also said the administration's latest action involving the media was similar to its earlier appeal to the Church to stay away from politics.

### Objectivity

Bunye continued to issue assurances that the President did not intend to suppress press freedom with her remarks on Thursday before the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas.

"What she wants is objectivity and fairness, not praise or plaudits," Bunye said.

"We have to give credit to the President for being candid and saying it as it should be said," he said at one point.

Speaking at the KBP conference held at Camp John Hay in Baguio, the President said the media should shed its "bad boy image" by practicing "responsible Philippine journalism" and by refusing to be used by her political foes in supposed destabilization campaigns.

She also said it should run "good news" on the economy and stop covering "kangaroo courts" run by "losers"—an apparent reference to the CCTA, which had been hearing evidence that would have been presented had not the impeachment case against her been dismissed.

"The public wants winners. You know that, because you always watch your ratings... The economy is the only winner here today, against those losers who carry no public mandate," the President said.

According to Bunye, Ms Arroyo had a basis for making such statements.

He cited a recent Social Weather Stations survey showing that 47 percent of Filipinos nationwide thought the media were "purely negative" and were not helping the country.

The survey was undertaken from Aug. 26 to Sept. 5 and commissioned by the AMA Education System.

Asked whether Malacañang saw the press corps as made up of "bad boys," Bunye said he enjoyed working with the group "despite the questions that are very hard to answer at times."

"It's a challenge to face you every day," he said. *With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

# Peso surges to 5-month high: 54.42 to $1

From page A1

dollar, its highest since early June, from Thursday's close of 54.69. It reached a high of 54.39 and fell to 54.70 at one stage during the session. A total of $677 million changed hands.

Traders said they expect the peso to remain supported at 54 levels by money sent home by Filipino workers overseas, which peaks ahead of the Christmas holidays.

Dealers said the sharp rise led the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to check prices, a move which often leads to central bank intervention to stem sharp currency fluctuations.

"We're hearing that there was some interest from the central bank, particularly below 54.50," a currency dealer said.

"We may see some strong support near the 54 level. So we may have limited downside (for the dollar) from here, although the general trend is for a peso appreciation."

The peso has strengthened 2.3 percent in the past month and 3.4 percent this year, making it Asia's best-performing currency so far in 2005.

The currency has benefited from a surge in inflows from expatriate workers who send back money each year in the weeks leading to Christmas holidays.

"Some people are also taking advantage of the high yields," the dealer said, referring to interest rates on short-term bonds and deposits. *Reuters, AFP*

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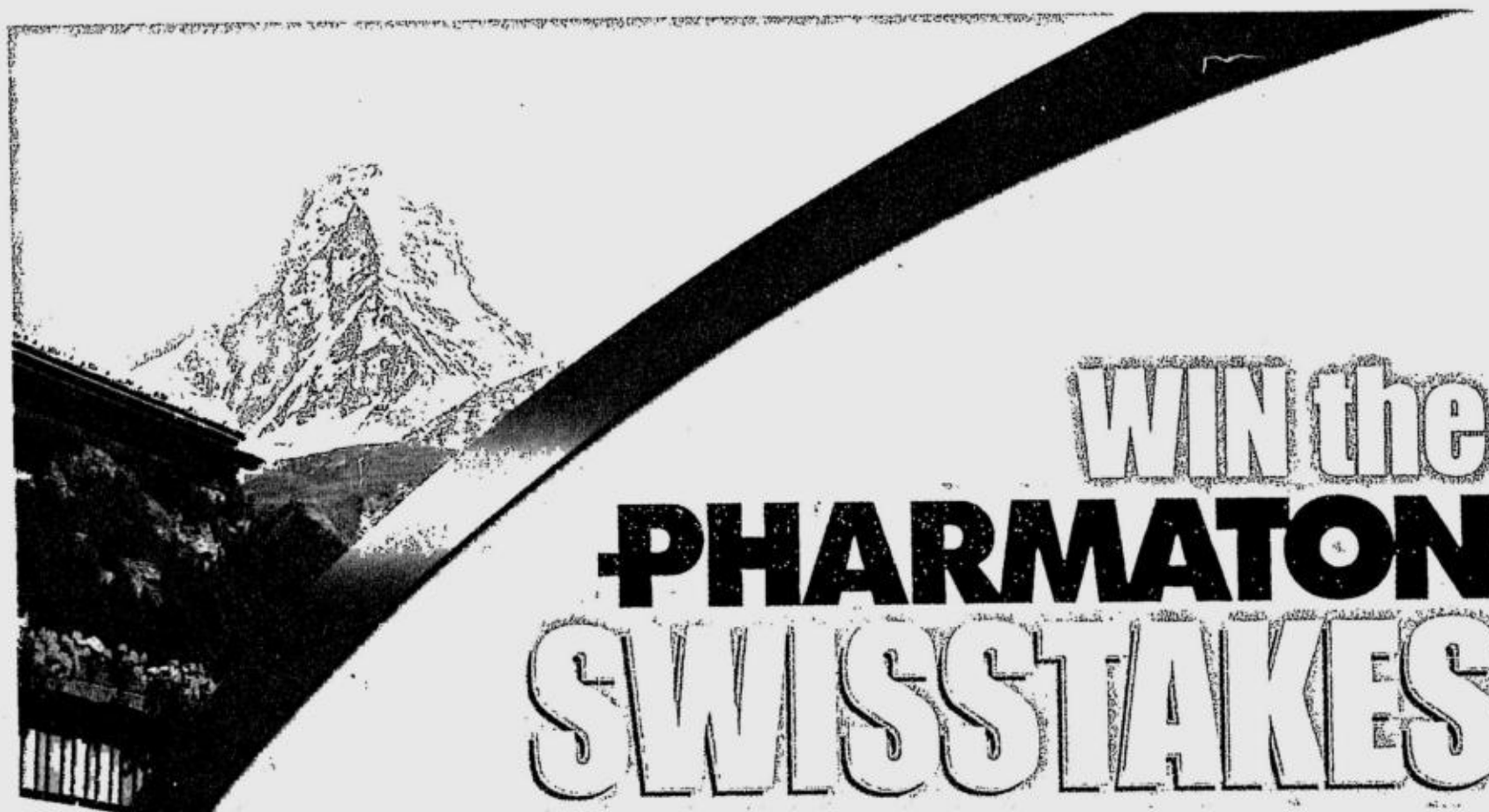

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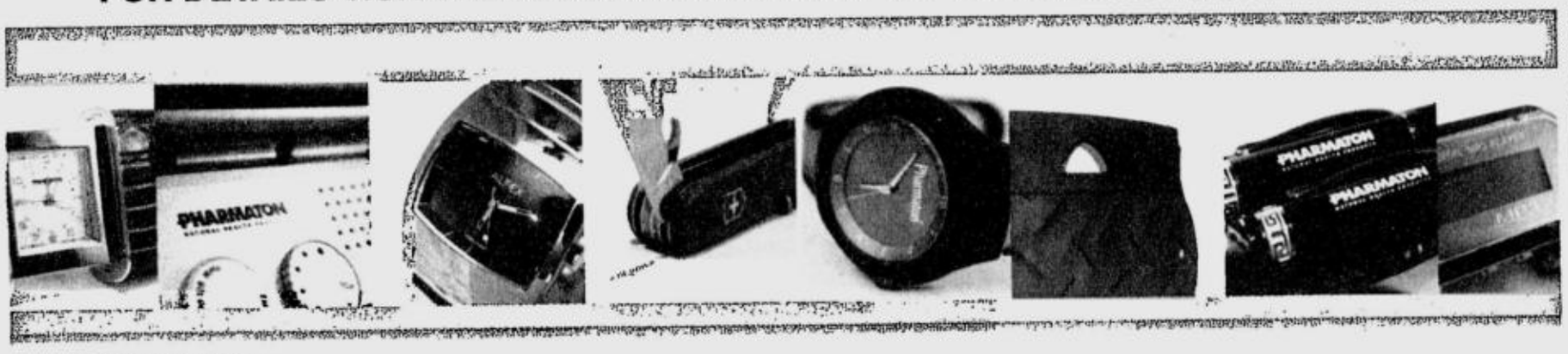


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13. The redemption period for the grand prize shall be within sixty (60) days from receipt of the letter. If prize is not claimed sixty (60) days from date of notification, the prize shall be forfeited in favor of Boehringer Ingelheim, with prior approval from DOH-BFAD.

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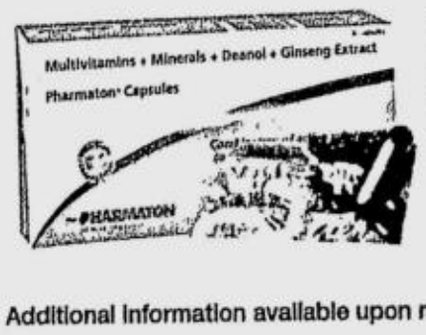


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# Lifting log ban in Samar even if legal ...

From page A1

by Fr. Eutiquio Belizar Jr., spokesperson of the Diocese of Borongan.

### The wealthy few

The bishops added: "Justice truly dictates that the natural wealth of Samar Island benefit Samar's poor and not end up in the hands of the already wealthy few."

Enrile owns SJTC, whose timber license agreement allows it to log in 95,770 hectares that fall within the Samar Integrated Forest Reserve (SIFR) and the Samar Island Natural Park (SINP). Samar is one of the world's 200 ecologically riches regions.

### 'Patronage politics'

Environment Secretary Mike Defensor lifted the moratorium that allowed the SJTC to resume logging operations in August this year. Despite criticism from environment groups, he has maintained that SJTC has the right to cut trees in the area.

One of the bishops described this as patronage politics.

"The issue of the DENR recognizing the right of SJTC is yet another glaring example of our government with its example of patronage politics. It is a government listening to the voice of one man, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, and turning a deaf ear to the voice of over one million Samareños," Palma said.

The bishops also said the lifting of the logging moratorium mocks the purposes and goals of the SIFR and the SINP, which were created in 2003.

The people of faith must oppose logging operations because they threaten the survival of 80 percent of Samar's old growth forest and watershed, thereby also endangering the provinces' livelihood, water supply and numerous species of flora and fauna, the bishops said in their statement, which was signed by several priests.

### Bad governance

"To risk the lives, livelihood and survival of these God's creatures is not only bad governance. It also contradicts our identity and the practice of the faith. We cannot truly say we are God's children and knowingly put ourselves and his other creatures in harm's way," the statement said.

ENRILE owns logging rights in the heartland of Samar's forest reserve

DEFENSOR lifted logging moratorium effective Nov. 22

The prelates also claimed that the processes leading to the issuance of the order had not been transparent, saying there were no public hearings or consultations on what they described as "a grave matter."

Medroso said the order to lift the moratorium hangs over Samar like a sword of Damocles and questioned the manner in which it was issued.

### So abrupt

"The order is so abrupt and sudden that it creates an impression that it is up to something that should not be known by many; that it is to give favor to the logging company at the expense of others," he said.

Palma said that before the moratorium was imposed, Samar had been at the mercy of flash floods. He recalled that in 1989, flash floods killed 79 people, submerged 33 towns and caused famine in the area for many months.

Hobayan added that around 100 lives were lost and thousands of pesos worth of crops were destroyed when the towns of Las Navas and Catubig were underwater for a week as a consequence of logging activities.

### Public consultations

Trance said they plan to hold a public consultation with stakeholders affected by the lifting of the moratorium on Nov. 22. They will discuss what actions they needed to take to have the moratorium reinstated. They also plan to hold forums in the municipalities which will be affected by logging operations.

# PAL resumes direct flights to Beijing

PHILIPPINE AIRlines (PAL) yesterday resumed its direct flight service to Beijing, China, after a 16 year hiatus.

PAL flight PR 358 left at 7:30 a.m. with 254 passengers, led by PAL chairman and chief executive officer, Lucio Tan, following a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Centennial Terminal 2.

Other VIPs joined the inaugural flight, including China Chargé d'Affaires Xiao Qian, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin, Ms. International Precious Lara Quigaman, and a delegation from the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FFCCCI).

PAL's Rene Soliman said that PAL would be using an Airbus A-320 for its Beijing flights, a relatively small aircraft with a full capacity of 150 passengers.

"We always expect a full flight. We're also testing the waters and hopefully, we'll have an increase in the (frequency) flights if the market responds well," Soliman said.

PAL suspended its Beijing route because of low revenues. It last flew to the Chinese capital in 1989.

PAL's three times a week flight schedules are also more convenient to Filipino and Chinese tourists and businessmen.

Before the Beijing direct flights, travelers going to Manila and Beijing had to take one-stop flights or transfer connections via Xiamen or Hong Kong.

PAL also has flies to Fujian in Southern China and to Shanghai.

The Department of Foreign Affairs described the resumption of the Manila-Beijing direct flights as a "major breakthrough in efforts of the Philippines to expand aviation links with China." *Nikko Dizon*


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ARMS AND THE EQUALS

# Reds lead rallies, say Bert in PNP command conference

By Luige A. del Puerto

HIS REPORTEDLY PRECARIOUS HEALTH notwithstanding, National Security Adviser-on-leave Norberto Gonzales is very much on public view and in fighting form, firing off an attack against communists "hiding behind legal fronts and Congress" at his first official appearance since his run-in with the Senate last October.

Gonzales attended a police command conference yesterday at the Camp Crame police headquarters, where he proceeded to warn the assembled police officials that the Communist Party of the Philippines was waging a full-blown rebellion and taking advantage of the political turmoil.

"Because they have been with us for so long, we sometimes forget that the communists [are] actually [waging a] full-blast rebellion against the government," Gonzales said.

He said the situation had become alarming "these past few days, weeks and months."

"What I'm trying to do is to inform our Armed Forces and the police that a rebellion exists in the country today and we should face it squarely," he said.

Gonzales said he was still on leave from his Palace job and that his health was "as bad as before."

## Country critical

But the country was in a critical situation, he said, and his health was not important.

"I have been going around the country just expressing my thanks to the people who have supported me during my confinement in the hospital. And I am also taking advantage of this opportunity by expressing some of my views on what's going on in the country today," Gonzales said by way of explaining his presence at the Camp Crame command conference.

Malacañang professed not to know about the emergence of Gonzales or why he was acting as if he was still on duty despite filing for a medical leave after his ordeal at the Senate during the hearing on the P50-million lobbying contract with US firm Venable.

"What I know is that he is under medical leave and that he has an officer in charge who is his second-in-command, Gen. Victor Mayo," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Gonzales was ordered arrested and detained by the Senate last September for refusing to divulge the details of the government's lobbying contract with the US-based firm Venable. He spent his entire five-week detention at the Philippine Heart Center where he was rushed after he was taken ill at the Senate hearing on Sept. 21.

He was diagnosed to be suffering from coronary artery disease, hypertensive cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Doctors said he needed heart surgery and that he required continued medical attention.

In late October, the Senate released Gonzales from its custody on humanitarian grounds, but warned that he would still be called to account for the Venable contract.

## Reds lead rallies

Before his hospital confinement, Gonzales had repeatedly warned the public about the possibility of a terrorist attack in the country. He said Indonesian members of the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terrorist network have slipped into the country and might already be planning a wave of bombings.

Asked how the communists had been "taking advantage" of the political turmoil, Gonzales cited the protest actions against President Macapagal-Arroyo. He said 77 percent of these were "communist-inspired."

He said members of the New People's Army, the CPP's armed wing, have been very visible in the urban centers and joining some of the street rallies.

That means the armed component of the Communist Party is already in the cities and is "here preparing to assist the destabilization against our government."

"You see, 77 percent of all the manifestations, rallies and protests in our streets are communist-inspired and communist-led. All the different opposition initiatives now are participated by the extreme left and the communists. And what are they proposing? They are proposing a revolutionary transitional government that will replace the present one," he said.

## Anti-terrorism bill

"I believe this is unconstitutional," he said.

Gonzales said he briefed the police about this situation and told them not to forget about the communist insurgency.

"We should pursue it [the communist rebellion] and finish it," he said.

Gonzales said he will be recommending more command conferences to discuss the situation.

He pressed for the passage of the anti-terrorism bill, and suggested that he was not entirely against the passage of another anti-subversion law.

"I don't know under what form the anti-subversion law will be in the future. It's up to our legislature to handle that," he said.

But he noted at one point that it is not against the law to be a communist.

"If they're communists, let them show their faces as communists. They should not hide behind ... legal fronts," he said.

He said the communists were also using Congress, mostly likely referring to representatives of leftist organizations in Congress.

He said the people's court, called the Citizen's Congress for Truth and Accountability that has put Ms Arroyo on trial for election fraud, human rights abuses and graft and corruption was an "insult" to the Supreme Court and the country's justice system.


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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2005

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

# Jordan king vows to get hotel bombers

AMMAN—JORDAN'S KING ABDULLAH PLEDGED on Thursday to "pull from their holes" militants behind three suicide bombings that ripped through luxury hotels in Jordan's capital and killed 56 people.

In one of the worst attacks to hit Jordan in modern history, two suicide bombers turned crowded wedding parties into scenes of blood and panic at the Grand Hyatt and the nearby Radisson SAS in central Amman. A third targeted a Days Inn hotel.

"We will pursue those criminals and those who are behind them, and we will reach them wherever they are," the monarch said in a televised address one day after bombers staged the near-simultaneous attacks claimed by al-Qaida group in Iraq.

"We will pull them from their holes and bring them to justice," a stern King Abdullah said, wearing a traditional Arab head-dress and a dark Western-style suit and tie in a brief message that appeared aimed at reassuring stunned Jordanians.

Deputy Prime Minister Marwan al-Muasher said the attacks killed 56 and wounded 96. "The operation was executed by three suicide bombers who were wearing explosive belts. Two entered the hotels, the other blew himself up outside the hotel in a car," he told reporters.

Al-Qaida in Iraq, led by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, said in a statement on an Islamist website that "a group of our best lions" had carried out the attacks against the hotels because they were used by US and Israeli spies.

"Some hotels were chosen which the Jordanian despot had turned into a backyard for the enemies of the faith, the Jews and crusaders," said the statement, referring to Jordan's King Abdullah. Its authenticity could not be immediately verified.

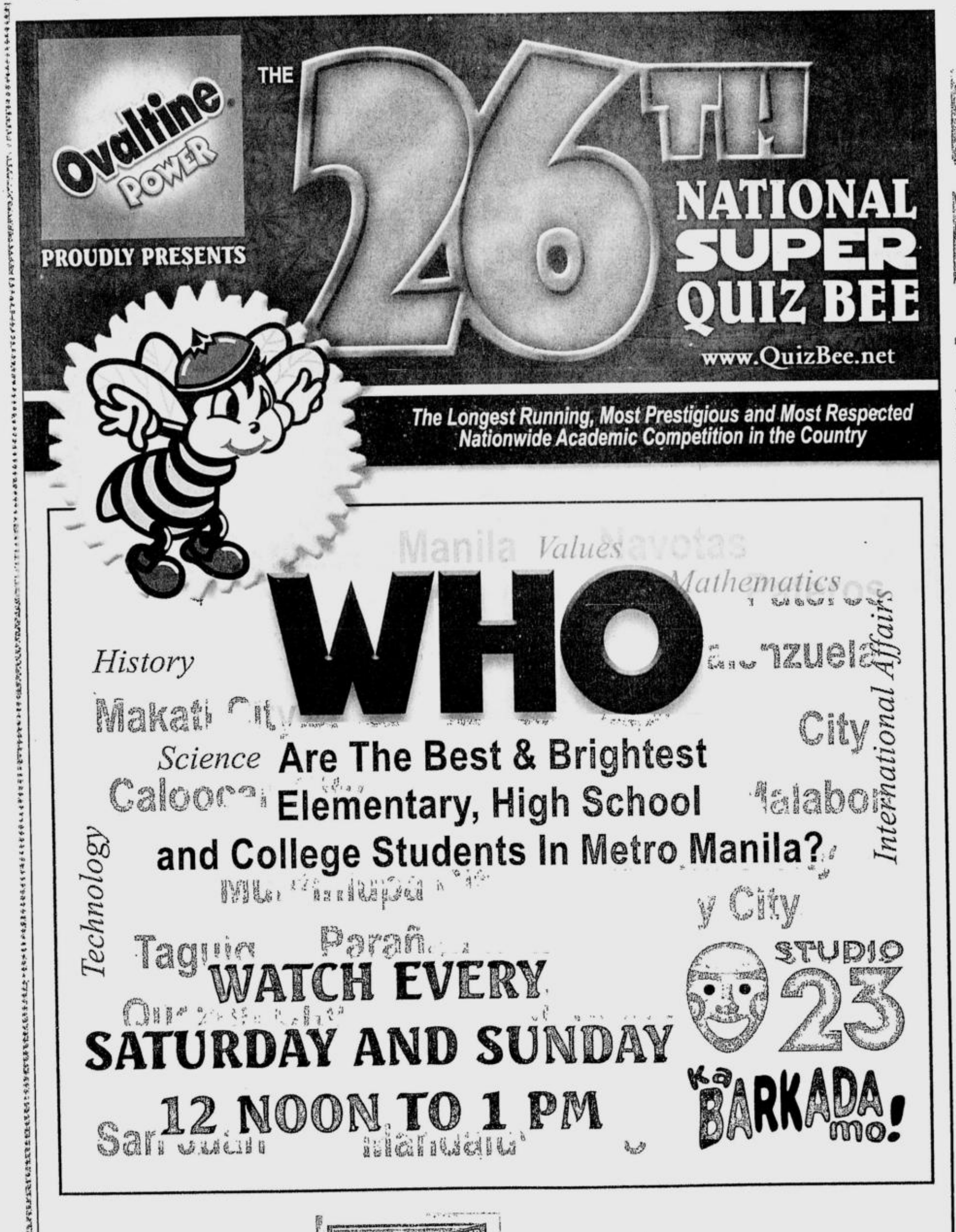
The hotels are frequented by Western security contractors, journalists and aid agency staff, many of whom use Amman as a transit point or base for their operations in Iraq.

But most victims were Jordanians. China said three of its nationals were killed. A Palestinian diplomat said a senior Palestinian officer and two other officials had died.

Police spokesperson Bashir al-Da'jeh said five Iraqis, a Saudi and an Indonesian were also among the dead. One American was killed and one wounded, a US Embassy spokesperson said.

"The world saw with horror the attacks on innocent people in Jordan by killers who defile a great religion," US President George W. Bush told reporters in Washington, adding the United States and its allies must remain firm in fighting terrorism.

Washington had already put a $25-million bounty on Zarqawi. *Reuters*



VICTIMS—Rima Akkad Monla and her father Moustapha Akkad pose at Rima's wedding in August, 1999. Rima was among dozens killed in the hotel bombings in Jordan. Her father died in the hospital. AP

## *'Halloween' producer Akkad dies after blast*

DUBAI—HOLLYWOOD ARAB FILM DIRECTOR Moustapha Akkad has died in hospital from wounds sustained in this week's hotel bomb attacks in Jordan, Arab television stations said on Friday.

One of the few Arab directors known in the West, the Syrian-born Akkad had been staying in one of three luxury hotels hit by suicide bombers in Amman on Wednesday, killing at least 56 people, Al Jazeera and Al Arabiya said.

His daughter was killed immediately in one of the blasts.

Akkad was executive producer of the "Halloween" horror films and directed a 1976 English-language movie about the Prophet Mohammad starring Anthony Quinn, "The Message."

In his controversial epic about early Islam, Akkad faced the challenge of shooting a movie where viewers neither see nor hear the main character because of Islam's ban on images of Mohammad.

Quinn played the Prophet's uncle Hamza.

Born in Aleppo in 1935, Akkad also directed the 1981 film "Lion of the Desert," in which Quinn starred as Libyan anti-colonial fighter Omar Mukhtar. *Reuters*

## Indonesia steps up hunt for top Malaysian fugitive

BATU, INDONESIA—POLICE ESCALATED A massive hunt for one of Southeast Asia's terror ringleaders on Friday, with thousands of officers going door-to-door, checking cars, and combing railway and bus stations in central Indonesia.

The manhunt for Malaysian fugitive Noordin Mohamad Top, believed to be a key member of the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah terror network, follows the death of his closest ally, Azahari bin Husin, who was killed in a police raid on Wednesday.

On Friday, Azahari's body was flown to Jakarta after an autopsy had been performed in a police hospital in Surabaya, a port city in central Indonesia not far from Batu where he was tracked down by an elite antiterrorism squad.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirayuda said Azahari's remains would be handed over to Malaysian authorities if his family asks for them. "So far there has not been a request," he told reporters.

Azahari's family, which lives in Kuala Lumpur, has indicated that it will ask for his body to be buried in Malaysia.

Though Azahari's death was seen as a major blow to Jemaah Islamiyah, which former members say is motivated in part by anger at US foreign policy in the Muslim world, security experts have cautioned that the group remains capable of carrying out more attacks. AP

# Peru recalls envoy to Japan over Fujimori case

LIMA—PERU WITHDREW ITS ambassador in Japan Thursday to protest Tokyo's attitude toward Peru's ex-President Alberto Fujimori, who avoided Peruvian justice while living in Japan for five years before his arrest in Chile this week.

The strongly worded announcement warned Japan against meddling in Fujimori's case as Chilean authorities review an extradition request from Peru.

Peru and Japan have clashed over Fujimori in the past.

Lima had tried to obtain Fujimori's extradition from Japan since he took refuge there in 2000. But the ex-leader obtained Japanese citizenship during his stay in Tokyo and Japan refused to grant Peru's extradition requests.

The withdrawal of Peruvian Ambassador Luis Macchiavello came a day after three Japanese diplomats met with Fujimori for 40 minutes in Santiago, where he has been detained since Monday, following his unexpected arrival in Chile.

Japan, which had been lobbying for consular access to Fujimori, said it was merely extending standard assistance as it would to any of its citizens detained abroad, but Peru appeared to view Tokyo's actions with suspicion.

"The government of Peru has decided to consider terminated the functions of the ambassador of Peru in Japan," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

"Any intervention by Tokyo in the extradition process underway with Chilean authorities for the ex-president, Alberto Fujimori, will constitute unacceptable interference," the statement said.

Foreign Minister Oscar Maurtua summoned Japan's ambassador to Lima, Hitohiro Ishida, to inform him of the decision, the statement said.

Maurtua told the Japanese ambassador that Fujimori was a Peruvian citizen and therefore "the government of Japan lacks the competence to intervene in the extradition process that Peru has before Chilean authorities," according to the statement.

Maurtua also expressed Peru's unhappiness with Japan's failure to respond to Lima's extradition requests when Fujimori was in Tokyo. *AFP*

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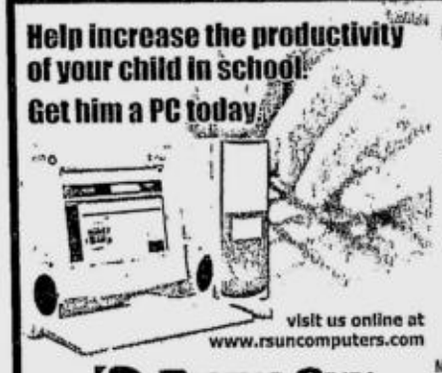

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**NOT ECSTATIC**
**Australian model Michelle Leslie sits in a courtroom in Denpasar on the Indonesian resort island of Bali Nov. 11. Leslie is on trial for ecstasy possession which carries a maximum jail sentence of 15 years and a minimum of four.** REUTERS

# China unlikely to join Kyoto emissions cuts

BEIJING—CHINA IS UNLIKELY to commit to cutting emissions in the next phase of the Kyoto Protocol, fearing it would retard economic growth, but analysts say the government is waking up to the threat of climate change.

China, now the world's second largest emitter of greenhouse gases after the United States, recently unveiled a five-year economic plan that stresses sustainable rather than breakneck growth, an acknowledgment of the environmental and social costs of its economic success.

And not without reason. China has 20 of the world's 30 most polluted cities, according to the World Bank. They are typically choked by car exhaust, factory emissions and construction dust, and the haze worsens in winter when coal-burning heating plants are lit. Health costs are also soaring.

Earlier this week, the government raised its target for reliance on renewable energy, saying it should account for 15 percent of national consumption by 2020. In January, a renewable energy law will take effect that sets tariffs in favor of non-fossil energy such as water, wind and solar power.

"The situation is not hopeless. The Chinese government is determined to take measures and has started taking measures," EU Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas told a news conference.

Despite these steps, the rapidly growing economy is consuming ever greater amounts of coal and oil and China is likely to come under pressure to do more when it joins officials from 150 countries in Montreal for a UN climate change summit.

The Montreal meeting from Nov. 28 will help shape the Kyoto Protocol after its first phase ends in 2012.

Kyoto requires developed nations to cut their emissions of heat-trapping gases by 5.2 percent from 1990 levels by 2008-2012. The United States and Australia declined to ratify the pact, and developing nations, such as China and India, are exempt from emissions caps all four countries say threaten economic growth.

"China's position won't change in a big way," said Yu Jie, a climate and energy campaigner at Greenpeace.

But its desire to play a bigger diplomatic role in line with its growing economic clout might see China taking the lead in discussions of new proposals that might center on technology transfer from rich to poor countries.

"China might be willing to commit to a cap at some time if there is a package on the table, for instance a technology transfer from the EU," Yu said.

China recently joined the six-nation Asia Pacific Partnership of Clean Development and Climate, which aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions by developing energy technology and which some say makes more sense for developing countries. *Reuters*

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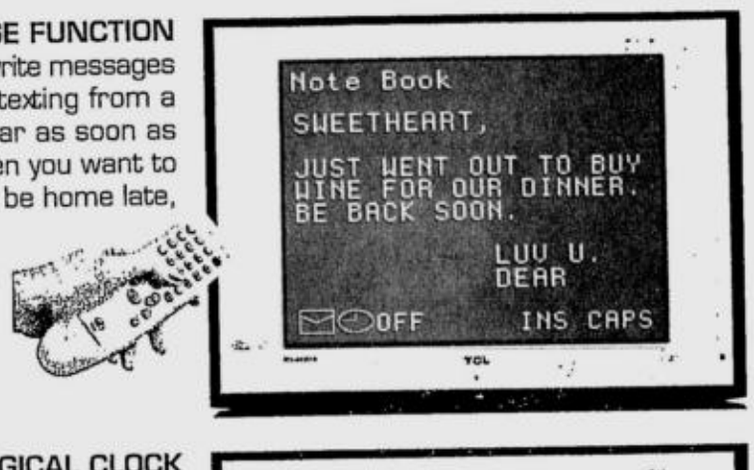


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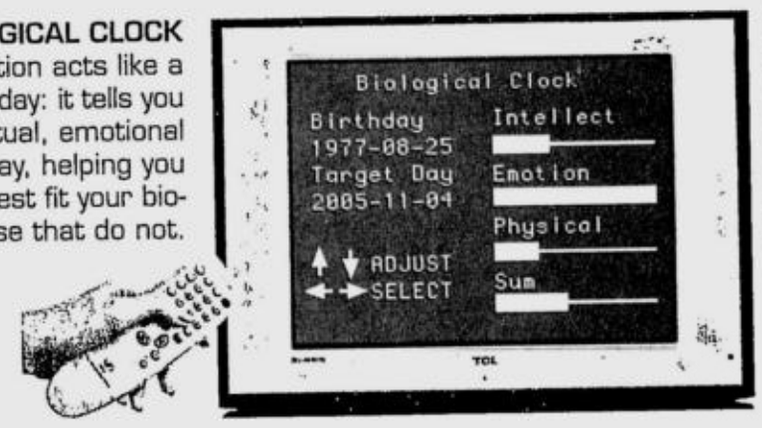


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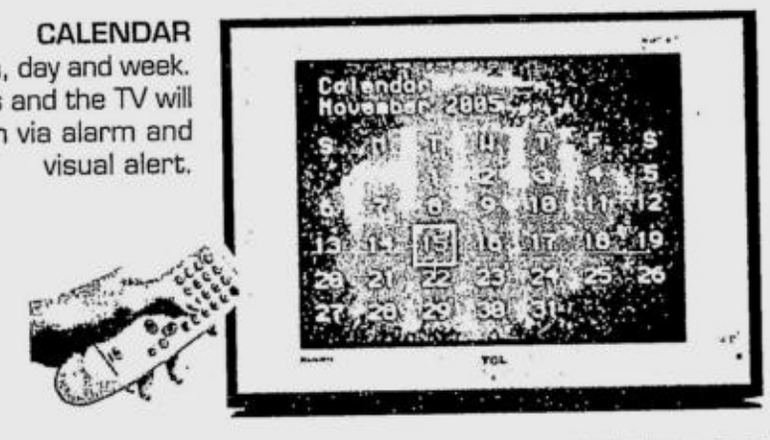


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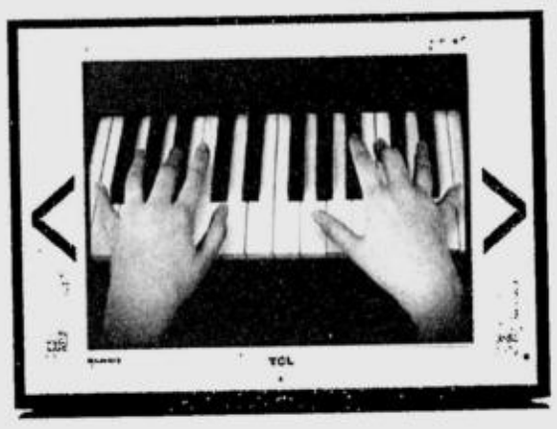

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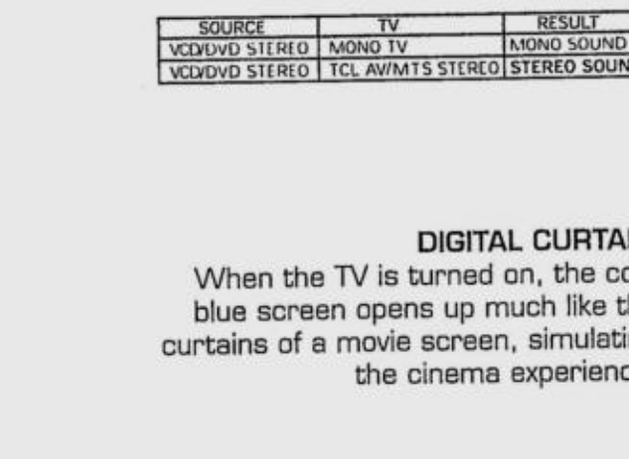


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# French holiday weekend to test waning of violence

PARIS—FRANCE BEGAN A HOLIDAY weekend on Friday that will test a downward trend in violence since the government imposed emergency measures against rioters angered by conditions in the country's poorest suburbs.

Police said 395 vehicles were set ablaze and 168 people were detained by 4 a.m. (0300 GMT) on the 15th consecutive night of disturbances that have put pressure on the conservative government—a similar level of violence to Wednesday night.

The unrest has receded since it hit a peak on Sunday night, and police hope the violence will continue to drop during the Armistice Day weekend, when offices close and city centers empty to mark the end of World War One on Nov. 11, 1918.

Residents of riot-torn suburbs are expected to march in central Paris on Friday to call for an end to violence.

But Paris police chief Pierre Mutz has banned the transport and purchase of petrol in jerry cans following a string of arrests in the capital of people carrying firebombs. He also says he fears violence is being planned in the capital itself.

"Calls have been launched over the past few days on Internet sites and by SMS messages urging meetings within Paris and calling for 'violent actions,' in the words of the authors of these messages," Mutz's office said in a statement.

Riots in the Paris area have been largely confined to the suburbs, mostly by youngsters who live in housing estates about an hour away from the city center and are angered by racism, high unemployment, poor prospects and harsh treatment by police.

The urban violence peaked last weekend but fell as emergency powers announced by Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin on Tuesday allowed local officials to impose night curfews.

President Jacques Chirac said on Thursday the government had to address problems in the suburbs.

"We need to respond in a strong and quick way to the unquestionable problems that many inhabitants of the deprived neighborhoods surrounding our cities are facing," said Chirac, who has come under fire for saying too little during the crisis.

Finance Minister Thierry Breton said he had prepared a series of proposals to create more jobs.

"We have put a lot of money into the suburbs over the past 20 years," he told Britain's Financial Times newspaper. "But obviously it wasn't enough."

The riots began after the accidental deaths of two youths apparently fleeing police but grew into protests by poor white youths and youngsters of North African and African origin.

The unrest has added a twist to rivalry between Villepin and Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy ahead of presidential elections in 2007 and Sarkozy continued his tough rhetoric on Thursday calling those behind the violence "thugs" and "scum."

At the same time, he said France should draw clear lessons from the unrest.

"We need to break free from the politics practiced in this country for the last 40 years and which unfortunately have failed," Sarkozy said on France 2 television."

*Reuters*

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# German coalition gov't in offing

BERLIN — GERMAN parties negotiating a new coalition government under conservative Angela Merkel go into make-or-break talks on Friday with some key agreements already in place.

The conservative Christian Democrats (CDU) and their sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU) have covered some of the trickiest areas with the center-left Social Democrats (SPD) in almost a month of surprisingly harmonious talks.

The parties have reached agreements on tax, budget and labor market policy and want a 25-billion euro investment program on research and infrastructure to boost growth, politicians at the talks have said.

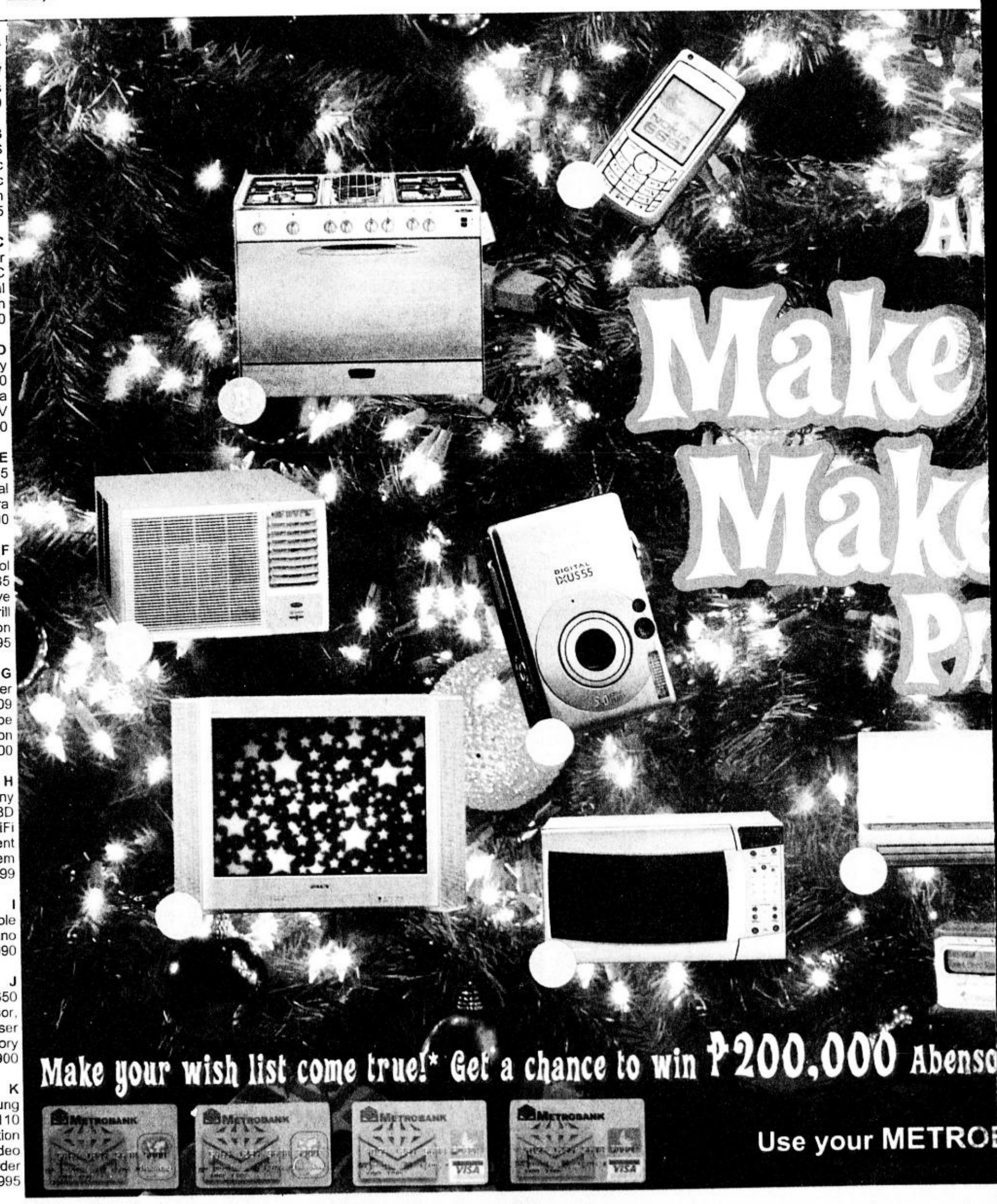
But the accord will not be sealed until an overall package has been tied up. Friday's talks, before a self-imposed Saturday deadline, are crucial to the bid to form what would be only the second "grand coalition" between Germany's main parties.

With a budget deficit that has repeatedly breached European Union rules and a chronically high jobless rate, currently running at 11.6 percent, the room for maneuver is narrow.

The new government will have to tread a fine line between consolidating the badly strained budget and choking off growth by excessively tight fiscal policies.

If they can agree, the parties will present the deal to their respective members at congresses early next week. Merkel could then be elected in the Bundestag on Nov. 22 to replace outgoing Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, becoming both the first woman and first easterner to become German chancellor.

The parties were forced into power-sharing talks after the inconclusive Sept. 18 election left neither side able to form a majority of its own. *Reuters*



# 3 Asian nations report new outbreaks of bird flu

BEIJING—THREE ASIAN NATIONS reported new outbreaks of bird flu in poultry on Thursday, a day after health experts unveiled a $1-billion global plan to halt the spread of the deadly virus.

China, Vietnam and Thailand said they had more outbreaks as the region heads into the northern winter, when the H5N1 avian flu virus seems to thrive.

Vietnam, where the virus has killed 42 people, will send soldiers and police to help contain avian flu. Agriculture Minister Cao Duc Phat urged provincial authorities to do more.

"We must launch a campaign to build each hamlet, each commune into a stronghold for fighting the epidemic," Phat was quoted as saying in Nong Nghiep Vietnam, a newspaper run by his ministry.

"In an emergency, the army will be deployed to isolate the infected area," he said.

Adding to the unease, the sudden death of a flock of ducks also suggested a more virulent strain was at work, another Vietnamese official said.

A highly pathogenic form of the H5N1 virus is endemic in poultry across Asia, where it is known to have infected 124 people and killed 64. Indonesia reported another death on Wednesday, but the cause is still subject to final test results.

The virus has been found in birds in eastern Europe and there are fears migrating flocks could take it to the Middle East and Africa.

Experts fear H5N1 could mutate into a form that passes easily among people, just like human influenza. If it does, millions could die because they would have no immunity.

Chinese state media reported two new outbreaks in poultry in the northeast, bringing the total number of outbreaks to six since the start of last month. Thailand said tests confirmed the presence of H5N1 in two provinces next to the capital Bangkok, a city of 10 million people.

Health and veterinary officials from around the globe announced a strategy on Wednesday aimed at rooting out bird flu among poultry and stopping it from spawning a pandemic.

"What is important to me is there has been consensus and clarity, (and) much better coordination. We'll be much quicker to control avian influenza as a result," David Nabarro, the UN's chief bird flu coordinator, told reporters after the meeting at the World Health Organization in Geneva.

The strategy aims to bolster early warning systems, strengthen veterinary services, make it easier for rich and poor nations alike to get antiviral drugs and step up research into pandemic vaccines.

Hungary gassed around 200 chickens on Thursday in a rehearsal of its ability to deal with an outbreak of bird flu, which has been spread to neighbors Romania and Croatia by migrating flocks.

An outbreak would trigger the gassing of infected flocks and could cost hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation if it is not contained, according to the plan.

"It is the economic damage that would be huge here," Hungary's Chief Veterinarian Miklos Suth said.

Italy has found a form of the H5N1 virus in a wild duck, but the Health Ministry said on Thursday it was not dangerous and bore no relation to the strain of Asian avian influenza.

The H5N1 virus was identified on Wednesday in a testing center in northern Italy, the health ministry said. It added the virus was genetically similar to strains frequently found among wild waterfowl in Europe, and not highly pathogenic.

"There is no alarm. There is no new concern," ministry official Elisabetta Alberti Casellati said. *Reuters*

**THE WORLD'S biggest passenger jet, an Airbus A380 superjumbo, taxis past Changi International Airport's control tower in Singapore, Nov. 11 shortly after touching down.** AFP

## Superjumbo makes 1st long-haul flight

SINGAPORE—THE WORLD'S BIGGEST AIRliner, the European Airbus A380, touched down in Singapore on Friday, completing its first flight to Asia—the most competitive market for planemaker Airbus and its US rival Boeing.

The double-decker superjumbo, designed to carry 555 passengers but with room for more than 800, landed at the city-state's Changi airport after a 12-hour flight from Airbus' headquarters near Toulouse in southern France.

The A380, as long as eight London buses and with enough room on its wings to park 70 cars, heralds a new era in passenger travel and is a challenge to Boeing in the battle for market share in the global aviation industry.

Airbus, part of aerospace group EADS, has received 159 orders and commitments from 16 customers for the four-engined plane, still short of the 250 it says is the break-even point.

The planemaker has three A380s in flight testing and expects to attain certification in the last quarter of 2006, in time for first delivery to initial operator Singapore Airlines.

The A380 has cost 12 billion euros ($14.2 billion) to develop and is running up to six months behind schedule. *Reuters*

## Senate quizzes CIA on 'prisons'

WASHINGTON—THE US Senate demanded a classified account on Thursday of whether the CIA was running a secret prison system as it debated a bill that would regulate the Bush administration's treatment of military detainees.

The call was made following a newspaper report of such a prison network abroad, including facilities in Eastern Europe, that added to concerns in America and overseas about the fate of those held in the US-declared war on terrorism.

Senators also moved to deny detainees at the US Guantanamo Bay prison the right to challenge their detentions with habeas corpus petitions in federal court, a step critics said could undermine efforts to secure their humane treatment.

Lawmakers said they could revisit the Guantanamo issue next week when they hope to complete a $491.6-billion package of defense and nuclear weapons programs.

The White House has threatened to veto the legislation because of an attached measure requiring humane treatment of terrorism suspects and setting rules for their interrogation.

The Senate voted 82-9 for director of National Intelligence John Negroponte to provide Congress' intelligence committees with a classified "full accounting" on any clandestine prison or detention facility run by the US government at any location where terrorism suspects were being held.

The Washington Post reported last week that the CIA had been holding and interrogating al-Qaida captives at secret facilities in Eastern Europe, part of a global covert prison system established after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Sen. John Kerry, a Massachusetts Democrat, said most lawmakers learned about the covert prisons from the newspaper and said his amendment was to "reassert congressional oversight." *Reuters*

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# OPINION

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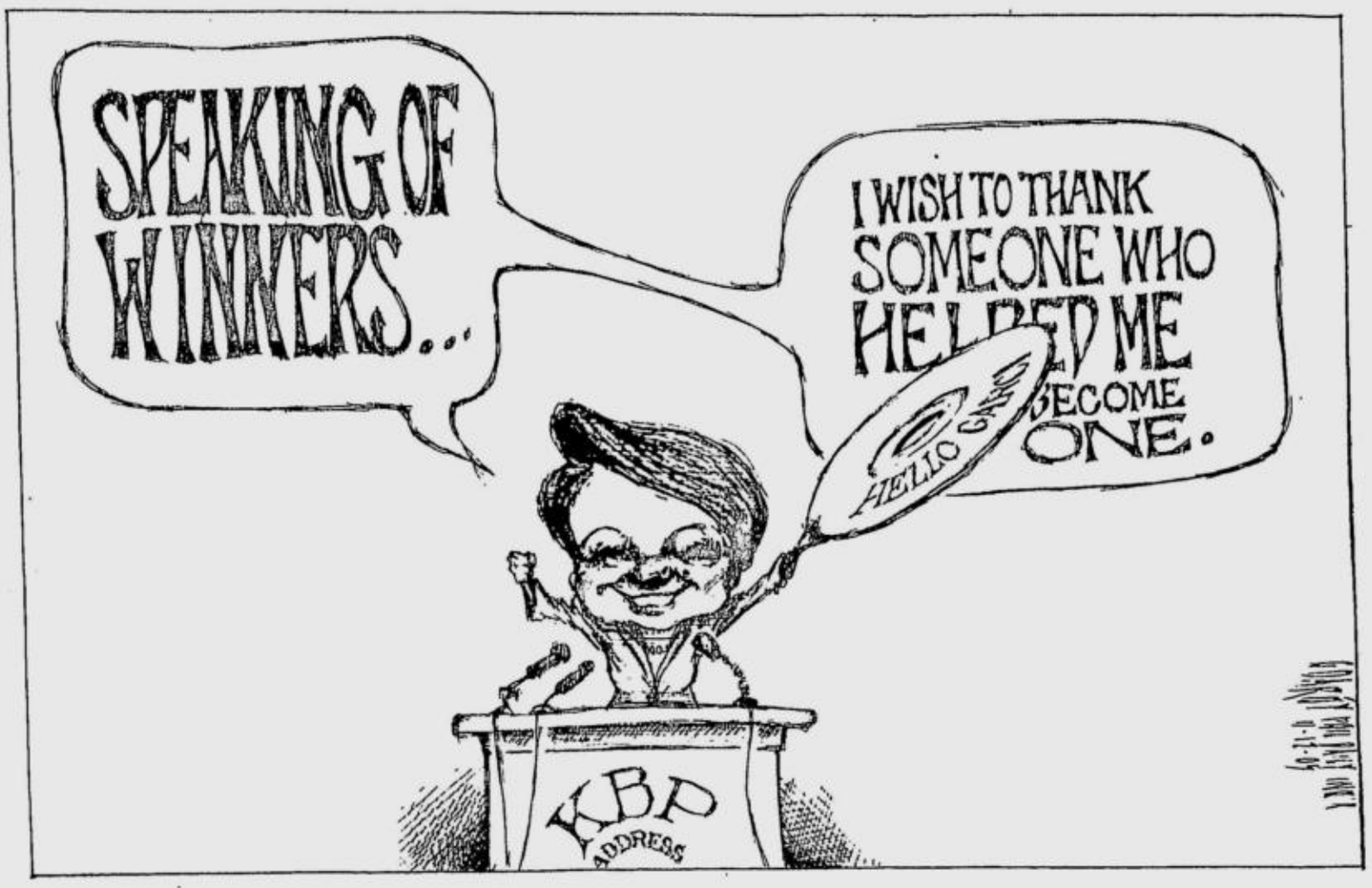



## Sitting ducks

THE PROSPECT OF A BIRD-FLU PANDEMIC IS HOVering around the corner, but our health and other government officials seem to be acting with less dispatch than is needed by the emergency. Save for an information campaign on the symptoms and risks of the disease, the Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Agriculture (DA) have hardly impressed the public on the contingencies they have supposedly undertaken to contain the threat.

**EDITORIAL**

Worse, some statements from officials seem to betray a lack of grasp of the problem. For instance, in denouncing the wrong information about the bird flu supposedly infecting the poultry industry of Negros Occidental, a known sanctuary to migratory birds around this year coming from the cold zone, Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban cautioned against panic and alarm, noting that the Philippines has less potential of a pandemic breaking out because of its archipelagic make-up. The remark is not only confusing, but alarming. Migratory birds don't walk on land or sail the seas on their yearly migration. Their wings render irrelevant not only archipelagoes, but also continents.

Meanwhile, the DOH seems to be going nowhere with its campaign to reproduce Oseltamivir, the anti-flu vaccine. The drug is in scarce supply, even in the United States. Roche holds the patent to the drug although strictly speaking, it could be manufactured here by any drug manufacturer since there's no such thing as a world patent. Roche might give permission to share the patent for manufacture here and improve access to the drug by Filipinos in the face of the avian threat. But as we have said, there's no movement along this line. All that the DOH could pledge is a January 2006 deadline to make the drug available locally. By that time, the birds will have roosted fully in the Philippines and perhaps spread the virus. The pandemic is just around the corner and all that the DOH can promise is having the vaccine two months away.

Indications are that the enforcement of contingency measures has been weak at the least, or non-existent at the most, particularly in provinces whose geographical endowments make them favorite migration sites for birds escaping from the harsh winter of the North. Local officials from these areas have deplored the inability of government agencies to assist them in containing the threat.

Mayor Jerry Pelayo of Candaba, Pampanga, for example, is worried that the DOH and the DA have not done enough to stem the menace. He said he had proposed that the 250-hectare bird sanctuary in Candaba be fenced off to protect the 32,000-ha Candaba swamp where poultry is raised, but the DA has not responded. Moreover, he said, he had asked for assistance for duck raisers who had agreed to stop raising their stocks around the sanctuary to minimize risks of poultry coming into contact with the bird migrants. He had also asked funding to help the local government field patrols and guard the quarantined areas. Both requests were ignored by the DOH and the DA.

Down south, in Negros Oriental, provincial veterinarian Antonio Mutia has expressed concern that his office does not have the personnel to detect bird flu cases or deal with the disease. "We do not know what to do if migratory birds will make a stopover in our area of responsibility," Mutia said. He said some migratory birds had been spotted around Tanjay and Bais City.

Mutia said he had requested the DA to conduct a comprehensive training among veterinary personnel on dealing with the avian menace, but he has yet to receive a response. He said he had also asked for protective gear, such as masks and gloves, to be able to monitor migratory birds. But again, no response from the DA.

The picture we're getting here is of the DA acting like a headless chicken. And perhaps worse than an infected bird is a headless chicken. At the very least, it could be said that while national policies have been fully enunciated, none of these are put into action where they should matter—on the ground, on the field. The fact that field personnel and officials of the DOH and DA have confessed that they are not getting guidance or directives from the headquarters over protocols and programs to contain the avian menace should show that there may be no rhyme or reason in the national government's contingency program. The program hasn't taken off. The DOH and the DA seem to have been infected by winged madness, and we have become sitting ducks.

## An unconscionable improvidence

**SEPARATE OPINION**

*Isagani A. Cruz*

SOME OF MY FRIENDS HAVE INFORMED ME, as if I didn't know, of Joseph Estrada's ghost-written letter to the editor against me that was published sometime ago in this paper. I suppose their unasked question is why I have not responded to his attacks. My answer is that there was no need to do this because his own letter is my refutation. That letter is like what we lawyers call a declaration against interest.

What perplexes me is why he should single me out for his indignation when there are other columnists who have criticized him with the venom he accuses me of. (This is wrong grammar to purists like Mr. Estrada, but never mind.) In fact, I defended him against the decision of the Supreme Court in Estrada vs. Arroyo in this column on March 11, 2001. I also refer him to my article on the subject in the June 2002 issue, Volume 7, No. 1, of the Ateneo Law Journal.

That done, let us now go to more serious things. Let us examine the request of Joseph Estrada to be allowed to attend the 50th anniversary of the Class of 1955 of the Ateneo High School to be celebrated on Nov. 15 at the swank Meralco Theater in Pasig City. Erap has been invited to the affair and wants to go there and enjoy the fun.

His lawyer and my good friend, former Sen. Rene Saguisag, has filed a motion asking the Sandiganbayan to allow the 69-year-old Erap, whose "years continue to dwindle to a precious few," to join the celebration. "In the memory of many people," he says, "it represents the best in their lives, crowded with happy memories, when bonding and friendship that last a lifetime are formed." A teardrop or two may have even accompanied that eloquent plea.

Erap was expelled from the Ateneo High School when he was just a sophomore for engaging in fisticuffs with a fellow student. As he and his opponent were discharged from the Ateneo for this offense, Estrada was technically not even a member of the class that is celebrating the golden anniversary of its graduation in 1955.

Erap must have formed lasting friendship with his former classmates—or perhaps it is because of his previous position as President of the Philippines—that he has been invited to the reunion of the Class of 1955. I believe, however, that the resolution of the motion should be based not on either of these considerations but on the relevant facts of the criminal case against him.

Joseph Estrada is accused of the heinous crime of plunder for which the maximum penalty prescribed by law is death. He has been denied bail because the Sandiganbayan has adjudged that the evidence of his guilt is strong. He comes under the exception to the right to bail that has been applied to him although he is a former President of the Philippines. The equal protection clause in the Bill of Rights operates on all persons similarly situated, poet and peasant alike.

The fact that he used to be President does not make him different from other persons accused of plunder when evidence against them is strong. Yet his former position has persuaded the government, beginning with President Macapagal-Arroyo herself, to handle him with special leniency, and even generosity, compared to other persons facing similar charges but without his privileged status.

He has not been confined in ordinary detention cells but in comfortable air-conditioned abodes, first in Laguna, then in the Veterans Memorial Hospital. Now he is enjoying the fresh air like a vacationer in his rest house in Tanay, where he is free to receive callers. Even in captivity, he has even given birthday parties with the permission of his guards.

According to the prosecution, the government spends at least P250,000 every time Erap moves from his residence to any place outside, as when he visited his mother in San Juan, with police and military escorts. In 2002, he was even permitted to visit a faith healer in Caloocan City, with no less than 1,000 law agents in tow and even a helicopter as additional security. That excursion cost hundreds of thousands of public funds.

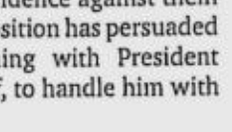
Permitting Estrada to join his former classmates' celebration will cost the government useless and unnecessary expense better incurred to feed the starving masses, or give medicines to the indigent sick, or buy books for the public schools.

It is true that Erap is at this time only a detention prisoner and should be presumed innocent like any other accused. But any other accused does not enjoy the extraordinary concessions the government has been according him and only because he used to be the President of the Philippines. I do not believe that his former position, which he is accused of abusing, should entitle him to the indulgent treatment he has been receiving.

At a time when the nation is in the throes of penury and want, spending badly needed public funds so Estrada can attend a party would be an unconscionable improvidence.

## Negative reactions

**GET REAL**



*Solita Collas-Monsod*

THE REACTIONS TO A COUPLE OF MY RECENT columns ("The stench of hypocrisy," "The truth is Arroyo won," titles supplied by the editor), via e-mail through the INQUIRER or directly to me, via text, and face-to-face, are very reassuring. They show that some people out there read, and are affected enough to take the time and energy to react, and I thank them all, whether they agree with me or not. The fact that the reactions are running about four-to-one in agreement with my views also is encouraging, but secondary: if they were four-to-one against, it still would not stop me from saying what I think should be said.

Here are some of the negative reactions, from the INQUIRER Opinion's Beta Feedback—with, naturally, my comments.

From Jun Santiago of Naga City: "Granted that she won in all the surveys, and even in the election, but the question remains—did she cheat?"

Excellent question. My answer is that the fact that she appointed Vigilio Garcillano to the Comelec in spite of vehement objections not just from politicians (who have no credibility) but from highly respected citizens, tends to suggest that at the very least, she had malicious intentions. That still has to be proven, however, and not by a kangaroo court.

From Rex Everett Tibus of Southern Leyte: "Reading your column 'Truth is Arroyo won' makes me wonder why I admired your intelligence way back when I thought you, Haydee Yorac and my mother and aunties were the most intelligent women in the world. I couldn't do any changes in my opinion with Ms Yorac cause she's dead; neither can I with my aunts and my mom cause they're still very intellectually capable persons. But I'm really in a quandary as to what to think of you. Your recent columns trying to defend Arroyo really makes my head spin trying to make your statements stick. Did she? Did she really won (*sic*)? Truth is: Arroyo said she won't run again... Truth is: She changed her mind. Truth is: Arroyo spent so much of government funds that our country is now mired in financial crisis. Truth is: Arroyo leading by 1 million in votes not because she won it fair, but because she picked up the phone and said, 'Hello, Garci.' Truth is: Bill Luz and Namfrel weren't the most credible authority on who won the elections because according to Garci, Namfrel's on Arroyo's side. Truth is: Arroyo wants to defend herself in an impeachment court, but tried every trick in the book to throw it out. Truth is: Arroyo won...but in a despicably dishonest way. Truth is: Solita—GET REAL."

True, she said she wouldn't run again, and true, she changed her mind. Not true that the country is now mired in financial crisis because she spent so much of government funds—the financial straits we are in are through the combined "efforts" of all past administrations as well. True, her lead would have been much smaller if she hadn't cheated, but she would have won anyway, and that was what my column was about. Not true that Namfrel is not credible, a conclusion you reach because Garci said that it was on Ms Arroyo's side. Are you implying that Garci may be a cheat but is not a liar? True, Ms Arroyo tried her best to get the impeachment charges dismissed, but there is nothing wrong with that—that's what everyone facing charges tries to do. That she succeeded is because the opposition didn't do its homework. Get Real, Rex.

From Jimmy Lardizabal, London: "Where has Solita Monsod been? She writes as if she took off for another planet before the 2004 elections and just came back the other day. In saying categorically that Arroyo won, all her once-brilliant brains could summon are the forecasts of the 2004 elections. She has conveniently obliterated the facts of the Garci tapes, the testimonies of not one but several self-respecting Cabinet members (certainly more credible than Gabby Claudio), and the words of Gudani and Balutan at the risk of their lives and career. I used to have so much respect for the usually principled Solita Monsod and nothing can explain her present actuations but the question, 'How much?'"

No, no Jimmy. Read my column again, please. Not just the pre-election polls, but the exit polls, the assessments of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, and of Namfrel, which all indicated that she won. If indeed she cheated, the result was to increase her margin. Also, your certainty that several self-respecting Cabinet members are more credible than Gabby Claudio is certainly open to question—some of them went to Hong Kong to try to make deals with Vice President De Castro, others were defending Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to high heavens and campaigning hard for her even as I excoriated her for appointing Garcillano to the Comelec and announced to the world that I would not vote for her (which should answer your "How much?" question. I am not for sale). I would say they have credibility problems, wouldn't you? The Gudani testimony that there was cheating in Lanao is notable only for its ho-hum qualities. When was there no cheating in Lanao?

# Political ceasefire during SEA Games—Mitra

THERE'S SOME FUSS OVER THE ENLISTMENT by government media czar Cerge Remonde of McCann Erickson advertising agency in the information campaign about the bird flu. One criticism is that with all the media resources at government's command, *kailangan pa ba ang* McCann Erickson? My own feeling is, if McCann is rendering free public service, why not? It's crucial for the private sector to get involved in something so important as an information and education drive on this brewing pandemic. Recall the Department of Health's "infomercial" on its anti-smoking drive which successfully used all kinds of gimmicks, e.g., cartoons and the punch line "Yosi kadiri." Those were all prepared by an ad agency. Why not get their help on something that could wipe out millions of our people?

* * *

Regarding the President's recent offensive against some media organizations for their heavy negative slant, I think she has no illusions that the media would carry only positive stories. What I think she is begging media to do is to have more balance in their treatment of stories, so that the positive developments, especially in the economic front, could be highlighted. It's commonly accepted that some media really slant their stories. The problem originally stems from the opposition's obsession with highlighting all the negatives about the Arroyo administration.. Some media openly sympathetic to the opposition have only been too willing to give the negative stories more than the usual treatment. The net result is to crowd out the positive stories, and this has contributed to what Fr. James Reuter, SJ, laments as a "national sense of depression" prevailing in our midst.

* * *

A good example of a positive development being drowned out is the coming Southeast Asian Games that our country is hosting from Nov. 27 to Dec. 5. Very little attention has been allotted to the SEA Games because of the overweening preoccupation with opposition activities against GMA, aided, unfortunately, by a number of administration blunders. Which is why Palawan Rep. Abraham

**POLITICAL TIDBITS**

*Belinda Olivares-Cunanan*

Mitra's call for a "political ceasefire" during the SEA Games is most welcome and sensible.

* * *

**Mitra called for the creation of a "bipartisan cheering team" for Team Philippines, and suggests Rep. Francis Escudero and Secretary Mike Defensor as co-captains. He stressed that the attention of at least 550 million people in the region will be riveted on RP, as athletes from 11 countries compete for over 400 medals and hundreds of journalists descend here. Mitra suggested that instead of anti-government hate slogans, we should display banners exhorting our athletes to excel. But he lamented some opposition groups' "rally-as-usual policy" as they announced plans to stage a mammoth anti-government rally on Nov. 30, Bonifacio Day, right in the middle of the Games.**

**"We can resume the political warfare after our guests are gone," said Mitra. "But for 10 days, let's give our country a breather from politicking so that our people can relax, watch the games and sing our National Anthem with pride as our flag is hoisted during the medal-awarding ceremonies." From wherever he is, the late Speaker Ramon Mitra must be very proud of his young political heir.**

**By the way, tune in on the dzRH program Cecile Alvarez and I co-host tomorrow at 9 p.m., as Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee chair Obet Pagdanganan tells us all about the games to be played in various cities.**

* * *

More positive stories: Over the last two weeks, Cecile and I discussed with franchise developer Armando Bartolome and business professor and Jollibee franchiser Brendan Yu ways of revving up the economy especially the countryside. We also asked how our OFWs can be helped in investing their hard-earned dollars wisely here. Bartolome related a recent visit he made to a new town called San Isidro, outside Tagum in Davao del Sur, where they grow the best chocolate (*tableya*) and serve it in the old *batidor* in restaurants there. If only RP chocolate could be pushed the way Chit Juan pushed for our *barako* coffee in her Figaro coffee shops, he mused, towns such as San Isidro would be very prosperous. The DTI's "One Town, One Product" project should look for such products to push.

* * *

**We inquired about the franchising business, which is still the best form of investment for our OFWs (instead of the ubiquitous tricycles and FX taxis), and Bartolome and Yu noted that from an original eight franchisers a few years back, the Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc. (AFFI) has grown to 44 companies, with 1,988 branches employing 13,866 people and daily total sales of P450,000 or P8.19 billion annually. AFFI has a sales growth rate of 51 percent and a success rate of 98 percent, and offers OFWs investment prospects in franchises from as little as P100,000 to a high of P10 million. What's more, says Bartolome, OFWs don't have to start from scratch, as the franchisers have a name and track record and have already done the research and development for them.**

* * *

Bartolome also talked about the increasing number of Pinoy franchise companies venturing overseas, e.g., Jollibee, now in the US West Coast, Guam, Hong Kong and Vietnam; Chowking in Indonesia and Vietnam; Bench in China; Figaro Coffee in China and Dubai; courier company Surex in Hong Kong, Bangkok and Japan;, and children's clothes brand Gingersnaps in Bangkok. Despite all the hate and doomsday scenarios opposition groups like to paint, in the hope of enraging the middle-class Filipinos, things are moving. For inquiries, the prospective entrepreneurs among our OFWs can call Armando or Lyndah Bartolome at GMB Franchise Developers, 532-83-86 or 535-0106, or 0918-936-9788.

# Empowered midwives

IT'S NO LONGER JUST A "BRAIN DRAIN" THE country is experiencing, but a hemorrhage, authorities say, as health personnel, most of them doctors and nurses, are leaving the country in increasing numbers for more lucrative jobs abroad.

As the migration of health personnel builds up momentum, fears have been rightfully aired about its implications on the health status of Filipinos and the "health security" of the nation. It's no laughing matter, after all, when there will no longer be any doctors, nurses or caregivers to look after our families' health. A "doctor-less" existence is already a fact of life for families in remote, isolated rural towns and barangays, but with doctors and nurses leaving in droves while enrollment in medical schools is plunging (matched by failing standards in nursing institutions), the day is not far off when even folk in big towns or cities can no longer find a doctor to look after them.

For now, though, the gap between health need and demand and the available services is being bridged by midwives, who are trained primarily to look after the health of pregnant women, mothers in delivery and newborns, but are being tasked to take on basic health care delivery as well. These days, a group of midwives are also proving themselves as not just health professionals but entrepreneurs and managers as well. Their success not only ensures the continued delivery of health services even to small communities, but also provides a viable model for the franchising of health services as well as for profitable small-scale health concerns.

I've written previously on the Well-Family Midwife Clinics (WFMC), a network of clinics managed by midwives providing "affordable, quality, convenient health care to clients in the lower- and middle-income markets." Last year, the clinics, whose start-up had been funded in previous years by foreign donors and operated in partnership with the international NGO John Snow Inc., were spun off into an independent organization, WFMC Partnerships Foundation Inc.

This year, WPFI holds its fourth national assembly, and its first as an independent organization, from Nov. 16-17 at Bahay ng Alumni in UP.

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

The foundation's officers are understandably anxious to ensure the success of the gathering as it could be taken as WPFI's "coming of age."

* * *

**THEME of this year's assembly is "The WFMC Franchise: Touching Lives through Women Empowerment and Entrepreneurship." Says WPFI CEO Reynaldo Chang: "This is the best time for the midwife owners and managers to become full-fledged entrepreneurs as they are now prepared to run their franchises based on commercial franchise principles."**

**Keynote speaker at the assembly is Francis Kong, an internationally renowned motivational speaker and author of several inspirational books.**

**Held in tandem with the National Assembly is the granting of the Well-Family Midwife Clinic Diamond Awards, which honors outstanding members of the network. Invited to deliver an inspirational message to the winners, finalists and participants is Solita "Mareng Winnie" Monsod, who it is hoped will communicate her energy, drive and passion to the largely female audience.**

**Launched in November 2002 by WPFI, the WFMC Diamond Awards aims to recognize excellence in midwifery, entrepreneurship and partnerships of the WFMC managers—in different categories such as service and performance, ability to inspire innovation and replication of outstanding practices in the promotion and delivery of family planning services, and their collaborations with local partners.**

**Aside from the keynote speakers, other resource persons have been invited to deliver talks on such topics as current trends in family planning technology, legal implications of maternal and infant mortality on midwifery practice, breastfeeding, and brand management and equity in franchising.**

* * *

CONSUMER protection remains woefully inadequate in this country, with consumers seemingly helpless against unscrupulous merchants and arrogant traders.

Cypress Rivera called to complain about her brand-new Hyundai Matrix, which she brought home last September but had to return to the Hyundai Alabang Service Center just over a month later due to the "total breakdown" of the engine.

"Though it costs much more, I decided to buy a brand-new unit because I heard that second-hand cars would give me so many problems," says Rivera. Imagine her dismay, then, when her spanking new car broke down after just a month of use.

In a letter to Hyundai Alabang general manager Romeo Jacosalem and service manager Enrique dela Cruz, Rivera, through her lawyer, demanded the replacement of the unit rather than just having the engine repaired or overhauled. "Pending its replacement," the lawyer added, "she also requests that she be provided (with a) temporary vehicle to be used in her business which was disrupted by this unfortunate incident."

Despite the letter, Hyundai Alabang has remained adamant in its position that repair work is all that's needed by the defective unit—a "lemon" in common parlance. It has also refused to provide Rivera with a vehicle for her temporary use, even if she has been hugely inconvenienced by the loss of her vehicle. I agree with Rivera that a replacement is necessary, for I would be loathe to continue using a car that broke down just a month after delivery.

Judging from similar sob stories appearing in motoring and consumer columns, sitting on the replacement of a "lemon" is a common practice among car dealers. To which government agency can Rivera run should Hyundai Alabang continue to turn a deaf ear?

# A fair to remember (2)

IF THE VARIETY AND NUMBER OF PAVILIONS at the Autumn Fair in Pragati Maidan are astonishing, the spanking new, huge India Expo Centre & Mart building nearing completion for the furnishings, floorings and textiles expo in January 2006 in Greater Noida, a satellite city outside Delhi, is even more awesome. Intended to be Asia's largest sourcing hub, spread over 2,35,000 sq m and housing 900 permanent stores exhibiting handicrafts, home décor, gifts, furniture textiles, it aims for world recognition.

The three-story structure will have four gigantic exhibition halls, conference halls, business centers, buyers' lounge, VP lounge, logistics center, warehouses, banks and restaurants and aims to create the country's premier centralized contact point for buyers and sellers. (By the way, the architects are German and the builders British, but I haven't heard any tussles about who paid off whom, who wasn't paid off, who was unhappy with the whole deal, followed by an endless investigation leading to nowhere.)

Six international shows are planned for next year, and it is with focus on their handicrafts that India intends to double the incomes of their middle class and shrink the percentage of those classified as poor. By focusing on their handicrafts like Thailand does, India has already seen an increase in incomes. This is not to say there aren't any problems: there is an unresolved border dispute with China that resulted in a war, another dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir, and there are sectarian violence and insurgencies in different parts of the country. The country is still struggling with social and environmental problems although their auto-rickshaws (equivalent of our tricycles) are already running on natural gas and so are some of their passenger buses.

Despite this, India has the world's fourth largest economy and prides itself on being the largest democracy. From the late 1980s, it began [illegible] encouraging eco-

**SENSE AND SENSIBILITY**

*Bambi L. Harper*

nomic reform and foreign investment. I was under the impression we were doing the same thing (well, at least, that's what the speeches said), but it doesn't seem to have had the same results.

As with most Asian countries, there are street markets everywhere. Being a true daughter of my country, I find bazaars/*tiangges* endlessly fascinating. Whether it was the aromatic oils in Cairo zouks or the little alleys of Hollywood Road in Hong Kong a long time ago or the street vendors in Tabora (did you know that organza's only P35 a meter?), these are places where people truly interact.

So even though I was advised to check out Chandni Chowk for shopping, an English buyer to the Autumn Fair sent me off instead to Jan Path where any self-respecting Filipina *tiangge* lover would have a ball haggling. A couple from Pantagonia (I had only heard about this place from the movie "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," and they were the first people I had met from there) and I went early one morning when the vendors were still laying their goods on the sidewalk.

You will love their bed covers and wall tapestries that resemble quilts made of scraps of brocades and silk saris, brilliant-colored covers for throw pillows, necklaces of corals and glass beads, embroidered handbags, hundreds of flower-child type skirts (you can find just as many in 168) as well as step-ins whose jewelled designs go back to the time of the Maharajas.

Although there is a tremendous amount to see in Delhi (it has 1,300 historically designated structures), here was an opportunity not just to see the Taj Mahal in Agra but to travel to Jaipur as well. This city was built by Sawai Jai Singh and named after him. It is only 260 years old which, given India's history, is practically brand new. With a name like "Palace of the Wind" beckoning, there was no way I was going to resist. (Turned out it's not really a palace. It's this curious five-story building right smack in the middle of a street with handicraft stores on both sides which made it convenient to shop and sight-see at the same time. The façade has delicate pierced openings where the Maharani and her ladies could watch the outside world unobserved.)

The City Palace, occupying one-seventh of the city area, is now a museum with all the glitter and pomp of Jaipur's past. Different rooms and buildings house collections of clothes and textiles, furniture, delicate miniatures that used ground rubies and semi-precious stones for pigments, armaments and the world's largest silver jar that was used to transport water from the Ganges to the Maharajah visiting London.

Brooding over the city is the Fort of Amber, the ancestral hill fortress of the Maharajahs that was the capital for 600 years. The pavilions and courtyards ascend in successive levels up a hill, which means that you do a lot of climbing but the fantastic blend of Mughal and Hindu style of architecture is worth your shortness of breath.

I have to tell you though that it wasn't the magnificent palaces or the imposing forts or the shopping that made the most impression. It was a small 5,000-year-old bronze statue of a dancing girl at the National Museum. Excavated from the ruins of the city of Harappa beside the Indus River, she seems to sway to the strains of some long forgotten melody with her left hand on her hip, head thrown back, gazing into eternity. To paraphrase the poet Rumi, she appears eternal—"past faith, past unbelieving, past doubt, past certainty."

* * *

*Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com*

# My world

I HAVE A NEW WORK, AS A WRITER IN A GOVERNMENT office located in Intramuros, Manila. After four seemingly fulfilling, but not quite financially rewarding, years in another government office in Baclaran, I quit my job. Now I commute from Baclaran to Intramuros daily. Baclaran is where I live, just a stone's throw away from my old office.

Every day as I make my way to the Walled City, riding in an FX taxi or, if my budget permits, in a taxicab, I pass by the US Embassy and see the long queue of people applying for a US visa. From a distance, I can see that they are trying to show off their best—the men in well-pressed, long-sleeved shirts and the women in their finest dresses. I'm pretty sure they are holding rosaries in their pockets, seeking divine intervention so that their applications would be approved.

**YOUNG BLOOD**

*Rene Sanchez Napeñas*

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.*—**Ed.**

I admire these people who stand and wait there rain or shine. Every time I look at them, images of the land of milk and honey flash before my eyes: the glimmering lights of the city that never sleeps, the casinos of Las Vegas, Disneyland, the Walk of Fame, the Tower of Liberty, Golden Gate Bridge—all of these and many others. But more than anything else, I remember what my sister told me after she arrived in the United States: "This land is for the young and single." One can make money there, save, save and save, and the world would be his.

My sister and her husband went to the United States five years ago after they found life getting harder here in the Philippines. They thought it was their last chance to make a good living and provide their kids a better future. Their fifth child was born in the States.

I cannot forget the day my sister went for the interview at the US Embassy. She looked so elegant and smart in her all-brown suit and skirt which enhanced her natural beauty. But hers is just one more story of a life changed by a US visa. Now she has some good cash stashed in a bank, and she and her husband are planning to come back, start afresh and raise all their children here so they would imbibe Filipino values.

My brother's story is a different one. He and his wife, both of them nurses in our province, were denied visas. It was quite hard for me to accept that, but maybe it was their destiny. I'm sure their lives will still make a turn for the better.

When my parents were still alive, they also failed to get US visas, maybe because they couldn't come up with the proper reasons for going there. I was too young then, about 6 or 7 years old, but I could already sense that my parents were terribly disappointed by their rejection since they wanted a better future for all of us. But then fate sometime has other plans for us.

Some years later, my father, a police captain, died as a local hero. My mother succumbed to an illness a few years later. Both of them never got to see America, but all three of us siblings got the best education.

Many people have given me the silly suggestion: Why don't you you take the chance of applying for a working or tourist visa to America while your sister is there to support you? My response has always been: "Why should I when I am happy with my life here?"

To some people that might sound like I am being nationalistic. But to be frank, nationalism has nothing to do with it. Maybe I am just afraid—afraid to join the queue at the embassy gates, afraid to be rejected, afraid to experience culture shock should I manage to get to America. Maybe I am not as courageous as my sister or not as ready to take on the challenge of working abroad as my friends. Or maybe, I am still clinging to something here, something which I cannot exactly say.

Many of my relatives and friends abroad, most of them successful in their own fields, earning a lot of money and making names for themselves, tell me that work is drudgery in the States. Not for me in my present office, where I get to do what I love most while earning enough to sustain a single soul like me.

Smokey Mountain, a famous singing group in my younger years whom I idolized, had a song about that elusive American dream. A line from the song said, "Not all the world is America, the world is where you are."

For most people, America may be the only place where dreams and realities meet, where dollars flow and aspirations are fulfilled, but all that may be just an illusion. The world, indeed, is where we are today.

As I fight for a seat during my daily commute, as I pass by the Baywalk, as I enter the foyer of our office building in Intramuros, as I attend the flag-raising ceremony every Monday, as I read a bundle of broadsheets and tabloids every morning in our office, as I strike the keys to write this article on my computer, as I discuss issues with officemates and other concerns, as I pass San Agustin Church and the Manila Cathedral on the way to Lawton for my ride back home, as I shop and dine with friends, as I pray for a few minutes in Baclaran Church and light a candle every day, I know that the world is where I am today. The world is my trip from Baclaran to Intramuros and from Intramuros to Baclaran.

*Rene Sanchez Napeñas, 27, works as a writer for the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.*

**NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:**

*Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.*

**THEY SAID**

## Toothless tiger

"The ombudsman has no power of arrest. If he sees a government official in the act of being bribed, he cannot do anything about it. He has to first call the police. This is ridiculous."

*—Tony Kwok, former chief of Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption, calling for the strengthening of the Office of the Ombudsman*

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# Samar not a logging area, but an ecological sanctuary

AS A NATIVE OF SAMAR, I BElieve it is my duty to speak out against the logging concession that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources granted to the San Jose Timber Corp.

Whether or not the concession is a political accommodation, I believe Environment Secretary Michael Defensor has no right or authority to sacrifice the ecosystem and the lives of the people of Samar.

Samar is the third largest island in the Philippines, and yet what is it famous for? Right now, I can think only of its being an exporter of manpower. A good number of construction workers, security guards, house help, cigarette vendors, etc. are from Samar. We have a high migration rate to most parts of the Philippines. We even have our own kidnap for ransom gang (KFR), the Waray-Waray Gang. SJTC's logging concession wouldn't help the situation. It might just make it worse.

The country doesn't need another Ormoc (Leyte), Liloan (Southern Leyte), or Infanta-Quezon incident.

Samar is a "third world" in a Third World country. The last thing our island needs is a land/mudslide calamity.

Samar is truly a beautiful island, rich in natural resources but long neglected by the government.

In Samar, we have sightings of the Philippine eagle. We also have Philippine tarsiers. We have a rich coral reef and beautiful beaches and rich mangroves, the breeding ground of the best tasting mud crabs in the Philippines. We also have one of the largest, if not the largest, cave in the Philippines. I have ventured around the island, and it has so much potential to be a tourist destination. Sadly, it lacks the infrastructure to support tourism. Hopefully, instead of logging, the government would develop the island into a marine and forest sanctuary.

If one visits Samar, one will always notice the famous Filipino smile. People there are very relaxed. Hopefully, the Department of Tourism steps in to preserve the island.

—SALVADOR TAN II,
doytan@gmail.com

# A coup not the best thing military can do for Filipinos

THERE'S AGAIN SO MUCH TALK of a coup d'etat these days. It is as if it's the most ordinary thing to do. Especially now that the Arroyo regime is very much vulnerable to being overthrown. With the impeachment complaints killed by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's henchmen in the House of Representatives, it seems to me everybody is again wishing for a coup. However, I don't think a coup is necessary to oust Ms Arroyo.

The military can perform a more patriotic act by openly withdrawing support from Ms Arroyo. The only reasons Ms Arroyo is able to hang on to power are: (1) there has really been no strong protest actions in the magnitude of Edsa I and Edsa II; (2) the groups calling for her ouster have not really united yet; and (3) the Church's "cool-down" counsels; and (4) the military brass' support for Ms Arroyo.

Edsa II succeeded in 2001 not because of a military coup but because of the military's open withdrawal of support from President Estrada. If the military does the same thing to Ms Arroyo today, there's no need for a coup. Of course, what is needed most to topple Ms Arroyo from power is a tsunami of protest actions by the people themselves.

The military may contribute to this people power if the generals and the young officers would have enough guts to come out in the open and say they no longer recognize Ms Arroyo as their commander in chief. That would be the best thing they can do for the Filipino people.

—RICHARD LAGGUI,
chuck_1130@hotmail.com

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## LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# A righteous, brave general

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani (now retired) testified in the Senate on the cheating during the 2004 presidential election. Why did he do it? Did he forget he was due to retire in a few days or weeks?

Still he chose to testify while he was in active military service. Was it because he wanted to make an impact? Was it because an active member of the military would be more credible than a retired one who had nothing to lose? For testifying in the Senate hearing, he forfeited his retirement pay of P2 million (an amount that many military officials would kill for). Not only that, he now faces court martial and might yet end up inside a prison cell for the rest of his life.

Gudani is no different from the legislators who chose to lose their committee chairs in the House of Representative by voting for the impeachment of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, knowing fully well that theirs was a losing cause in an institution that considers Jose de Venecia as God.

I pray that his clean conscience and the respect he gained from ordinary people like me would be sufficient to help him overcome this hour of crisis in his life. It only saddens me that I cannot shake the hand of this person who puts premium on righteousness above all else.

I believe God looks favorably on this man. *Mabuhay si* General Gudani!

—ROMELLE CAMBRONERO,
rrcamby@yahoo.com

# Let pride of Bicolandia live on

LAST MONTH, WE HONORED the favorite son of Naga City, the pride of Bicolandia and of the entire country—Raul Sagarbarria Roco.

Declaring Oct. 26 (the birth anniversary of the late senator) this year and every year thereafter as "Raul S. Roco Day" was our way of paying tribute to a man who consistently brought honor and recognition to his beloved city all his life.

Indeed, since his death more than two months ago, people have been extolling his virtues and accomplishments. But forgetful as we are as a people, we must ensure that Roco's legacy will never fade in our collective memory.

That was why Mayor Jesse M. Robredo (2000 Ramon Magsaysay awardee for public service) suggested to the Sangguniang Panglungsod to rename the Naga City Public Library into the Raul S. Roco Library as a constant reminder that reading and education were integral parts of Roco's life, enabling him to deliver public service of the highest quality in a career spanning more than four decades.

A huge tarpaulin poster hung at the main entrance of the public library declared: "Keen Reader. Great Leader." Truly an apt description of Roco.

We also wish to thank Sonia Malasarte Roco and the entire Roco clan for sharing with the city government the Raul S. Roco memorabilia to give us and the generations yet unborn a glimpse of the life and times of a great man.

May the spirit of the "Pride of Bicolandia" live on!

—GABRIEL HIDALGO BORDADO,
vice mayor, Naga City

# More people are asking Cruz's question

NEAL CRUZ ASKED, "WAS ESTRAda removed constitutionally?" (PDI, 10/21/05)

When lawyer Alan Paguia said Estrada wasn't, he was disbarred by the Supreme Court.

Now, it seems people have come to their senses—they are arriving at the same conclusion or are at least, asking the same question.

The breakdown in social and political order in the magnitude we see today started from the day the Constitution was breached by the very people who were supposed to uphold it for the common *tao*. President Estrada is almost an incidental issue.

What the justices of the Supreme Court, the Vice President (Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo) at the time, the generals, the legislature and the civil society did—manipulating and plotting to overthrow the incumbent president without due process—was totally unacceptable. They should not have short-circuited the Constitution. They should have tried him and allowed the law to run its full course and, if he was found guilty, sent him to the gallows. That would have been the right and the only moral thing to do.

It's never too late for a nation to rectify a collective moral and legal wrong.

—ANNA DE BRUX,
anna-de-brux@chello.be

# A dynamite set to explode

I KNOW VAT CAN TURN AROUND our fiscal deficit, but why do the people have to suffer for it? The Philippine government is the most inefficient in the world; we will only lose whatever the government rakes in from this new EVAT to corrupt public officials. It's a vicious cycle.

One better way to generate funds and save us from the unwanted burden is by abolishing our show-biz wannabe Senate and half of the joke we call the House of Representatives by consolidating all the districts that have no use at all. I assure you, that will work.

I'm not pro-GMA. Neither do I want her to resign. I share the sentiment of the middle class. We live every day, going about our daily chores and thinking that the government has no use to us. But the EVAT finally takes the cake. It's a dynamite already lit.

—IAN SEGOVIA,
ian_segovia@hotmail.com

# Customs also acts as security

THE NEWS REPORT ON THE move to "nail shut" the "open-drawer habit" in the Bureau of Customs is a good idea. But, maybe, it would also help to remind everyone of what customs officials and employees are in office for, and what their task is all about.

Other countries have brochures inside their international airports, informing incoming plane passengers what they can or cannot bring into the country, or what are required so that they can bring certain items into the country.

Professionalism may be what the customs people need. They act also as security people for the whole country, just like the police or National Bureau of Investigation, both of whom we also keep imploring to practice and never forget professionalism.

—TERESITA UY,
tatet_uy@hotmail.com

# Revolting brand of politics

WE ARE WOMEN ACTIVELY INvolved in various movements struggling to uphold truth, justice, good governance and authentic social change. We come together to assert our definitive role in putting an end to the illegitimate, divisive, elitist and anti-women regime of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the hope of initiating the process of renewal as we collectively bear and bring forth the kind of society we aspire for.

We were outraged by the manner that GMA conducted her campaign in 2004: the wholesale, institutional fraud, the blatant misuse of government resources, and the unmitigated patronage and transactional politics that assured her election at the cost of weakening our already fragile institutions. As we join the ranks of those who seek the truth and hold GMA accountable for the violations she has committed, we decry the shameless manner she continues to operate this mad, runaway "campaign" to hold on to power.

We are enraged by the extent GMA is willing to go to stay in power. We assail the countless cover-up operations of the Arroyo administration to conceal her abuses of power, including the fabrication of false information with the Hello Garci CDs and the suppression of corroborating testimony through EO 464.

We denounce her repressive policies to arrest legitimate expressions of dissent and protest, such as the calibrated preemptive response which has resulted in the illegal and violent dispersal and arrest of those who oppose her, many of whom are women. We condemn the audacious use of patronage that GMA resorts to in order to maintain her allies, dissipate opposition and sustain her rule.

While she focuses all her energies, as well as the entire machinery and resources of the government on ensuring her political survival, governance has taken the backseat to the detriment of millions of Filipino women who rely on basic services and who are burdened with the task of making ends meet, particularly in this time of economic crisis.

This adds to the many crimes she has committed against Filipino women, particularly her policy of support only for natural family planning which deprives women, especially the poor, of other safe and effective means to control their fertility and puts at great risk their health and lives in gross violation of their reproductive and other human rights. The irony of having a woman President who is unresponsive to the plight of women has been underscored and aggravated in this time of deep political and economic turmoil.

The longer GMA stays in power, the more havoc she will wreak on our institutions, our economy, our very lives and our collective spirit as a people. We refuse to overlook these grave violations and to condone this brazen, degenerated and revolting form of politics and governance.

—AIDA SANTOS, NYMIA PIMENTEL-SIMBULAN, EVALYN URSUAM, AYA FABROS, RHODA VIAJAR,
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# MILF says Nur should be freed

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the largest of four Muslim rebel groups in Mindanao, appealed yesterday for the release of the detained leader of a rival guerrilla faction.

The MILF has been talking with the government since 2001 about a peace deal to end a nearly 40-year conflict that has killed more than 120,000 people and stalled development of the resource-rich southern island of Mindanao.

"We're appealing to the government to free Nur Misuari from jail on humanitarian grounds," said Mohaqher Iqbal, head of the MILF negotiating panel.

"Misuari is not only a recognized Moro leader, but his health is declining." Misuari was the founder and former head of the moderate Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), a rebel group that signed an Indonesian-brokered peace deal with the government in 1996.

The MNLF split in 1978 and the MILF was formed in 1984 from dissident members led by Salamat Hashim, a Muslim cleric who died in 2003.

"We see the effort to free Misuari as part of the Muslim rebels' consolidation process," said a senior army intelligence official. "The MILF used to be part of Misuari's secessionist guerrilla forces. They could be working for a merger."

The intelligence official said the MILF wanted to expand its influence ahead of a possible peace deal with the government of the mainly Roman Catholic country.

Since January 2002, Misuari has been detained at a national police camp in Laguna while being tried for leading a failed rebellion on the southwestern island of Jolo in November 2001.

"As Muslims, we sympathize with his plight," Iqbal said, adding the MILF would not raise the issue during negotiations.

"We share a common aspiration and cause, fighting for the same dream of self-determination for the 'bangsamoro' people."

Misuari, a former university professor, organized the MNLF in the late 1960s to seek an independent Muslim state, winning recognition from the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the early 1970s.

In December 1976, he agreed to accept an autonomy offer under a Libyan-brokered peace agreement, signing a truce that ended the violent secessionist war on Mindanao.

The deal did not last long because the government, under the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, reneged on its agreement to give minority Muslims self-rule in 13 provinces.

When Marcos was removed in a bloodless "people power" revolt in 1986, the new government under Corazon Aquino had convinced the MNLF to negotiate a new peace deal.

Misuari signed a new peace deal in September 1996 and was elected as governor of the four-province Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

His term was extended twice until November 2001, when he led a failed rebellion on Jolo to block new elections in ARMM.

He tried escaping to nearby Sabah state on the northern tip of Borneo island but was intercepted by Malaysian border guards.

*Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

MISUARI

# Elite Army team raids Lipa City cop station

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—At least 30 heavily armed members of the elite team of the Philippine Army raided the Lipa City police station and disarmed its personnel just before dawn Friday.

Batangas police director Senior Supt. Francisco Don Montenegro said the early morning "attack" left a policeman injured.

"The [Army men] disarmed and physically maltreated duty personnel at the police station," Montenegro said in a text message sent to the INQUIRER.

He said the government soldiers, led by a certain Capt. Rommel Abayon of the Army' Special Forces disarmed 10 of the 15 duty policemen. Some of the Army troops beat up SPO3 Alberto Garing, desk officer at the station, he said.

Abayon's group fled and seized 13 firearms of the stunned policemen. *Marlon Ramos, with report from Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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3) One-time registration only. There should be one registered name per cellphone number.

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6) Participants must keep all their tape receipts as proof of purchase. Failure to present the receipt which contains the winning Tape Receipt Number and transaction details will disqualify the winner from claiming the prize.

7) A successful registration, which includes the initial entry is free. For succeeding entries, cost for each successful message sent and received is P 2.50 for Globe, Touch Mobile, Smart, Talk N Text, Addict Mobile, Infinity, and P2.00 for Sun Cellular subscribers. The same rates apply to erroneous registrations.

| Draw Dates | Deadline for Texting of Entries | Prizes/ Number of Winners |
|---|---|---|
| Nov. 4, 2005 1st Monthly Draw 6:30pm | Nov. 4, 2005 4:59pm | 1 winner of P100,000<br>5 winners of P20,000 each<br>5 winners of P5,000 each |
| Dec. 2, 2005 2nd Monthly Draw 6:30pm | Dec. 2, 2005 4:59pm | 1 winner of P100,000<br>5 winners of P20,000 each<br>5 winners of P5,000 each |
| Jan. 6, 2006 Grand Draw 6:30pm | Jan. 6, 2006 4:59pm | 1 winner of P500,000<br>2 winners of P50,000 |

8) The winners will be drawn electronically via randomizer. The draw will be held at the JS Unitrade Merchandise, Inc office, 31/F Raffles Corporate Centre, Emerald Ave., Pasig City in the presence of JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc., DTI, and Direct Image Dimensions representatives

9) Winners may win only once in each draw. In case a person's name is drawn more than once, he is entitled to the prize of greatest value. Non-winning entries are qualified for the succeeding draws

10) Winners will receive a call on their mobile phones and will be notified via a registered notification letter

11) Prizes are transferable.

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14) To receive weekly promo updates, text EQPROMO ON to 2955. For further inquiries text in EQPROMO ASK <your question> to 2955. Same text rates apply.

*Promo runs from Oct. 6, 2005 to Jan. 6, 2006*
*See posters and flyers for more details*
*Per DTI-NCR Permit # 2368 series of 2005*

# It's N. Ecija's turn to collect taxes from dam

PALAYAN CITY—THE provincial government of Nueva Ecija, one of the two provinces that host the Casecnan multipurpose irrigation and power project (CMIPP), has started moves to collect the P245-million realty tax that the project's operator owes the province.

But unlike Nueva Vizcaya, the other province that collected a P250.7-million realty tax through a court suit, the Nueva Ecija government is pursuing a less confrontational action in the payment of the tax, said Gov. Tomas Joson III.

"I just sent a demand letter to the management of the CalEnergy (the dam's builder and operator) instead of resorting to a court action. We want to preserve good relationship with the firm since it will operate here for 18 years more," Joson said.

The firm settled its tax obligation to the Nueva Vizcaya government but it noted that it was paying "under protest." Officials of Nueva Vizcaya earlier warned the firm that it would auction off its property in the province if the firm would not settle the tax deficiency CalEnergy with its subsidiary CE Casecnan Water and Energy Company (CE-CWEC) built the $650-million project through a build-operate-transfer scheme with the government.

The project, which featured the construction of small dams in two rivers in Nueva Vizcaya and a 26-km tunnel to divert part of the river flows to the Pantabangan dam reservoir in Nueva Ecija, was completed in 2001.

*Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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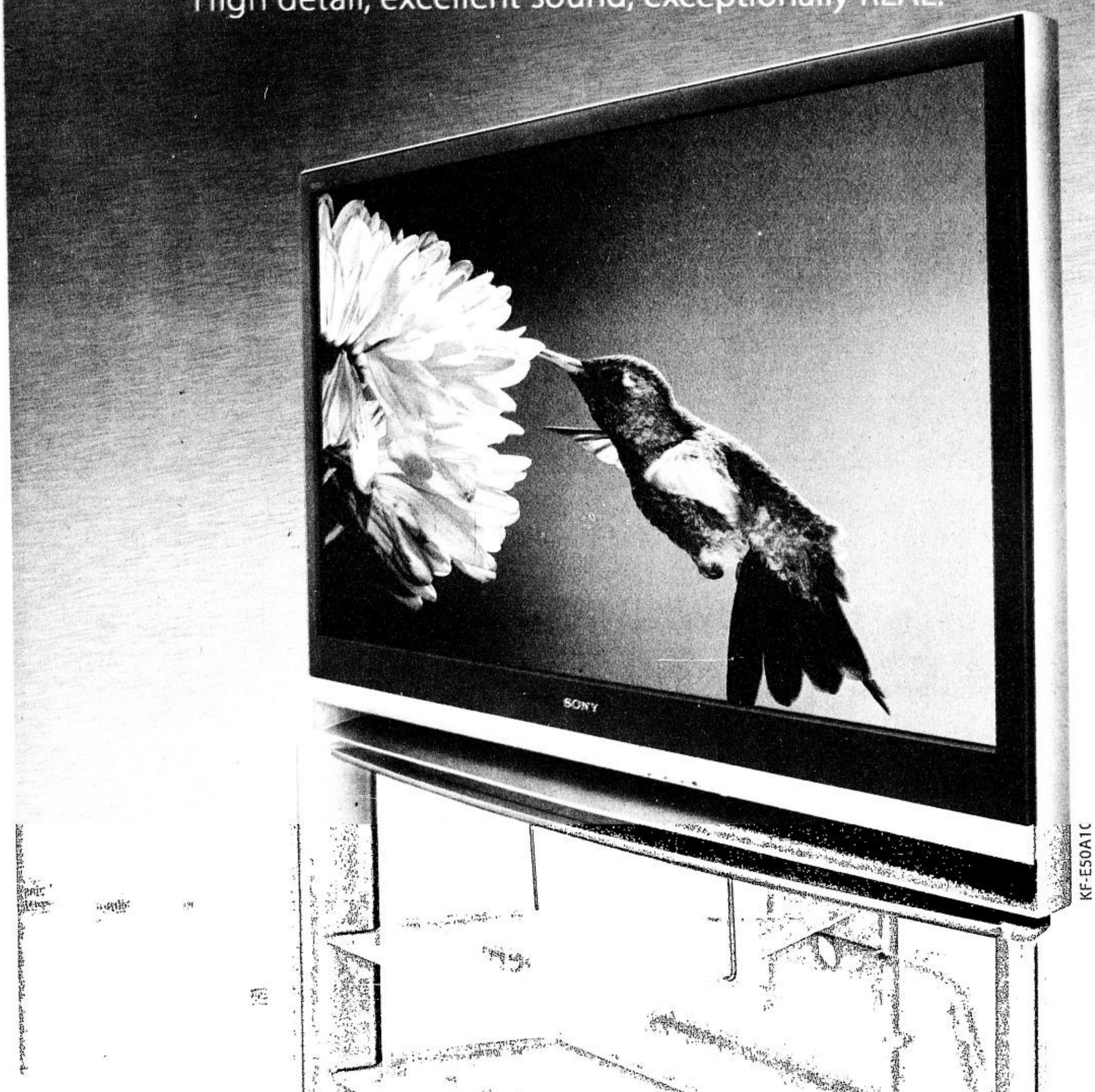


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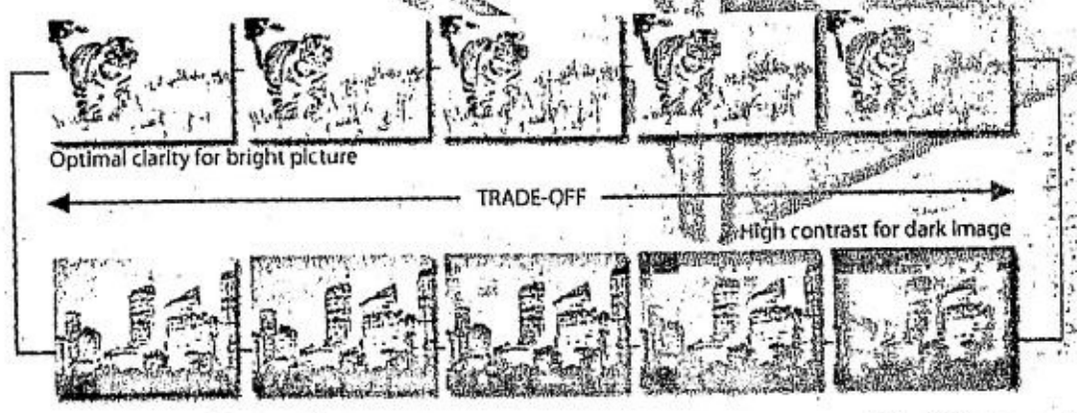


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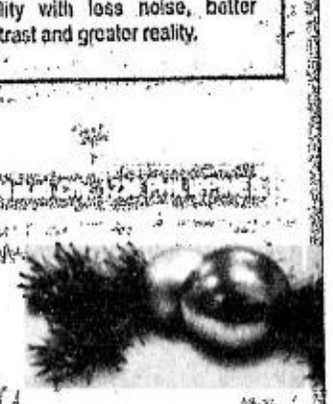

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**FOREIGN TROOPER**

RICO GONZALES/AP

**A US Marine takes position at a beach landing exercise with Filipino soldiers in Ternate, Cavite. The presence of American soldiers for war games in various parts of the country was put in a bad light following accusations of rape against six US servicemen in Subic.**

# NLEx operator won't reduce toll for truckers

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE Manila North Tollway Corp. (MNTC) has denied the plea of vegetable truckers for the reduction of toll and the increase in the maximum allowable weight limit for cargo vehicles at the North Luzon Expressway.

Renato Ticzon, MNTC's marketing director, said the toll are dictated by the government's Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) while the weight limit for trucks is provided for by the anti-overloading provisions of the motor vehicle user's charge law (Republic Act 8794).

"We understand the plight of your business which is presently suffering from the current economic crisis," Ticzon said. "But the use of the world class NLEx also costs much and that we could not also just ignore the law that has set standards for its use."

Ticzon met vegetable truckers at the Inglay Restaurant here on Thursday.

Truckers here have complained that the increase in oil prices and maintenance cost and the high fees at NLEx are killing their transport business at an alarming rate.

Benito Hipolito, president of the Benguet Vegetable Truckers Association, said reducing toll and expanding the weight limit for cargo trucks at the NLEx could stop the collapse of their business.

Only 208 of his group's 400 truck members are now left transporting vegetables to Manila because of the hard times, he said, adding that more members are already contemplating of stopping vegetable delivery.

The 400 trucks usually deliver 500 to 600 tons of vegetables to Divisoria daily, but now, the present trucks on route could only deliver 270 tons daily, he said.

He said if the trend continued, there would be a possibility that no vegetables would reach Manila in the future because trucks would decide to stop transporting vegetables from the trading post here.

But Ticzon said the MNTC could not simply reduce toll at NLEx because the rates were fixed by the TRB.

The NLEx imposes a toll on the NLEx from P203 to P609, depending on the kind of vehicle, for the whole stretch from Sta. Ines in Pampanga to Balintawak in Quezon City.

Ten-wheel trucks are made to pay P1,218 for a round trip. Hipolito said the toll further increased transport cost for one trip which now amounts to more than P14,700, including the salaries and food of the driver and helper.

Under RA 8794, the maximum weight limit for cargo trucks entering the 85-km NLEx must not go beyond 13.5 metric tons per axle.

The truckers said increasing the weight limit for vegetable trucks could help them recoup their transport losses. ***Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

# Benguet town bent on staying clean, green

ATOK, BENGUET—THIS TOWN is bent on making its highway as green as its vegetable terraces.

So when travelers pass through Halsema Highway in this town, they better not relieve themselves anywhere or throw food scraps, consumed bottles of mineral water or emptied packs of junk food off their vehicles' windows.

If they do, chances are they will be arrested and charged at the municipal trial court with violating the town's ordinance on cleanliness.

Mayor Concepcion Balao said the warning also covers farmers and truckers who usually use the road shoulders to clean and trim their vegetables before they are packed for distribution to Metro Manila markets.

"They usually pile their *ubbak* (trimmings) on the road and they become an ugly sight specially when they begin to rot," she said.

Balao said the town is not bidding for any cleanliness award.

"It is just that our campaign for cleanliness is part of our commitment to manage our wastes properly in accordance with the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (Republic Act 9003)," she said.

To boost the campaign, the Department of Public Works and Highways had approved the rehabilitation of two public toilets along Km 50 and Km 54 in Halsema.

Special attention will be given to Km 54 because aside from being a convenient pit stop for motorists, it is known as the highest point of the Philippine highway system.

The Department of Tourism has also pledged to repair a public toilet in Barangay Sayangan, this town's main trading center, Balao said.

This fourth class town has an area of more than 20,000 hectares. Its mountains are often foggy and green forests often separate groups of clustered houses from the other.

Lately, the DOT has decided to include its vegetable terraces as part of a plan to expand tourist attractions in the province.

Halsema, an 85-km national highway that starts from La Trinidad until Mt. Data in Mt. Province, passes through the town from Km 21 to Km 60.

The highway is the major artery for the province's vegetable-producing towns of Atok, Tublay, Buguias and Kibungan. ***Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

## ROUNDUP

### Fire destroys P15M property




DUMAGUETE CITY—About P15 million worth of pieces of property went up in smoke on Sunday when a fire of still unknown origin gutted nine business establishments in a commercial area on Vicente Locsin Street this city. No one was injured in the fire, which started at about 11:30 a.m. and was put under control at about 1:45 p.m., said Chief Insp. Arnulfo Sayson, Dumaguete fire marshal. He said initial investigation showed that the fire started from Sanco Commercial and spread to other establishments in the area. ***Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau***

### Farmer abducted

MALILIPOT, Albay—A woman here sought the help of the police in locating her husband who was allegedly abducted by armed men early morning Wednesday. Loudy Vazquez said her husband, Roger, 36, a farmer, was forcibly taken by a dozen unidentified men armed with M-14 armalite rifles and handguns. She said that at around 4 a.m., a jeep with no license plate and a motorcycle stopped near their home in Sitio Mabanag, Barangay Calbayog here. The armed men looked for her husband and without any warning, took him with them. Town police chief Senior Inspector Melchor Borbe said his men were still investigating the case. ***Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

### Typhoon strands passengers

LEGAZPI CITY—At least 598 passengers were stranded in various ports in the Bicol region on Thursday as authorities cancelled operations in almost all ports here due to Typhoon Ondoy, according to the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) regional office here. Bicol was placed under Typhoon Signal No. 1 on Tuesday. At least 203 passengers were stranded in Tabaco port in Albay, 200 in Pilar port, 105 in Pio Duran in Albay, 34 in Sabang, 27 in Bulan port in Sorsogon, 19 in Virac, Catanduanes and 10 in Legazpi City. Only the Matnog port in Sorsogon remained open as of 11 a.m. ***Leo Martin Ganace***

### Indian national slain

SORSOGON CITY—An Indian national, more popularly known here as "Bombay," was shot dead Wednesday afternoon after collecting payment from one of his clients in Barangay Buhatan here. Police identified the victim as Joshuan Singh alias Jessie, 32, of Barangay Piot. The two unidentified men approached and shot him at close range, police said quoting the wife of the victim who was with him at the time. It was learned that the killers commandeered the victim's vehicle, a Toyota Revo, to escape. The vehicle was later recovered in front of a gasoline station along Magsaysay Street here. ***Bobby Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

### Farmers get water access

SAFE, potable and accessible water is now flowing throughout Barangay Katipunan where most residents belong to the Bicao-Katipunan Agrarian Reform Community in the vicinity of the world-famous Chocolate Hills. The P1.5-million water sanitation project was made possible through the Department of Agrarian Reform's Belgian Integrated Agrarian Reform Support Program which is providing basic social services, economic farm product improvement, social infrastructure building and skills training for farmers throughout the country, according to a news release.

# Docs warned vs dispensing of medicines to patients

SORSOGON CITY—THE BUREAU OF FOOD AND Drugs warned doctors against dispensing drugs to their patients, saying such practice is illegal.

Ursel Digo, BFAD representative based here, said doctors are not allowed under the law to do the dispensing, which is a common practice among doctors especially those who have their own clinics.

Digo said such practice violates Republic Act 5921 or the Pharmacy Act which confers the authority exclusively to registered pharmacists to dispense of medicines.

A big number of doctors here maintain their own clinics and most of them dispense medicines provided to them by pharmaceutical companies.

Doctors are limited to prescription alone, Digo said.

She also noted that medicines dispensed by doctors to their patients are even costlier than those being sold at pharmacies, and many of these medicines were brand samples. ***Bobby Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

**Saturday, November 12, 2005**
**32nd Week in Ordinary Time**

**1st Reading:** Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9
**Gospel:** Luke 18:1-8

Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should pray continually and not lose heart. He said, "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor people. In the same town was a widow who kept coming to him, saying: 'Defend my rights against my opponent.' For a time he refused, but finally he thought: 'Even though I neither fear God nor care about people, this widow bothers me so much I will see that she gets justice; then she will stop coming and wearing me out."

And Jesus explained, "Listen to what the evil judge says. Will God not do justice for his chosen ones who cry to him day and night even if he delays in answering them? I tell you, he will speedily do them justice. Yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

**Commentary**

*Here is a parable on praying and not losing heart. A widow and an unjust judge. She rails against him and he is slow to give her justice. We think of ourselves as the widow and we make God into an unjust judge. What if God is the widow and has spent all of history and all our lives trying to get our attention and give God what is due to him: worship and our lives? We must pray because God is God and we belong to God. We must cry out and be faithful no matter what is happening in history. God will be faithful! God may you find faith on earth today. Amen.*

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INQUIRER Visayas

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
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# Professor ushers hope for film industry

By Irma Faith Pal
*Dumaguete City*

WHILE SOME PEOPLE REFER TO THE FILM industry as a dying industry in the Philippines, Jonah A. Lim sees infinite possibilities.

In fact, this 40-year-old film professor at the Silliman University School of Communication is just starting to make waves in the international experimental and short films scene.

His short film, "Kaibigan (Friend)" was awarded Best Foreign Film at last month's 6th Annual Christian WYSIWYG (What-you-See-is-What-you-Get) Film Festival in San Francisco, California.

The honor came as a pleasant surprise to Lim because he made the film to use it as a "teaching aid" in his TV production class to explain how a short film is made.

Lim has been a film and audio-visual communications professor of the Silliman University School of Communication here for nine years.

This Manila-born and Manila-raised professor relocated to Dumaguete in 1996 because he said he was tired of the fast-paced life in Manila.

Lim said it has become his habit to surf the Internet to look for updates on the video and film industry and on film courses in the academe.

His resourcefulness paid off as it gave him ideas about class projects, teaching aids, and teaching techniques.

Once in a while, he would chance upon in the Internet some scholarship offerings to study film abroad as well as "pop-up" calls for entries to film festivals.

"I would join filmfests when the organizers' objectives would match with mine as I produce the short films," said Lim.

One of these was the 6th Annual Christian WYSIWYG Film Festival whose goal was to promote family entertainment and positive messages. This year's theme was "Renaissance of the 7th Art."

His entry was a short film that he conceptualized, wrote, edited, produced and directed last year for his TV Production class to demonstrate to his students how a short film is made.

The short film "Kaibigan" is based on a true-to-life story that first appeared in a magazine. It tells about how a boy found Jesus Christ after losing his best friend in an accident.

## Low budget

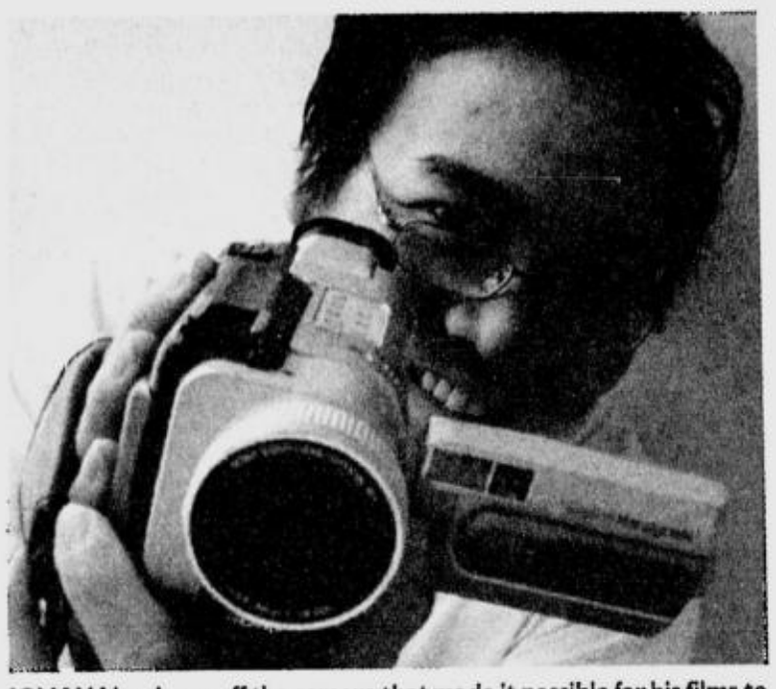
His class of seven mass communications students helped him conduct auditions for the various roles for this "teaching aid."

"I just applied all that I learned from film school, starting with the casting, as all actors, professional or budding, have to suit their characters," he said.

Veteran stage actress Dessa Quesada Palm, who spends most of her time in Dumaguete, got the plum role of mother of the boy.

The others who made it to the auditions were from Dumaguete City—physical therapist Lynn Larena Olegario, music student Chris Vidad, Pastor Princeton Apura, Silliman Church Pastor Haniel Taganas, and Keanu Medalla and Carlo Bollos, SU School of Basic Education pupils.

Lim said that while they auditioned for the roles, the cast rendered their talents for free because the film was supposed to be simply a class activity and a low-budget production.



JONAH Lim shows off the camera that made it possible for his films to win international awards. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The original musical score was created by Alan Valencia, former faculty member of the SU College of Performing Arts.

"We just used a digital 8 camera, tripods, lights, lapel microphones, non-linear editing using the Pinnacle Studio computer program—basic equipment that Silliman Masscom had invested for its video laboratory," Lim said.

Jonah's short film entry was submitted in MPEG format on a compact disc, which was hand-carried to the United States in May by his sister-in-law, Dr. Susan G. Lim, who then mailed it to the San Francisco WYSIWYG headquarters. Then he waited.

Lim got a piece of good news on Sept. 17 when he received an e-mail from the organizers that his film won an award.

The awarding ceremony was to be held on Oct. 22 at the WYSIWYG Filworks Studio and Sound Stage on Treasure Island in San Francisco.

"But they did not tell me what category," he said.

Lim, however, did not have the funds to go to San Francisco to collect his award.

"A few days after the awarding, they e-mailed me again telling me that they were sending me a trophy for Best Foreign Film. I couldn't believe it. I checked their website (wysiwygsf@earthlink.net) to see the title of my film in the list of winners. I never expected it to go this far. I was just so ecstatic," he said.

Lim's glass star trophy eventually arrived here Wednesday through an international courier. He got it only after the Bureau of Customs waived about P4,000 in taxes for the declared value of his prize.

## Not a novice

But this professor is not exactly a neophyte when it comes to filmmaking. Nor is it his first time that his works are cited in international filmfests.

Lim got his degree in Bachelor in Communications, major in Film and Audio-Visual Communications, from the University of the Philippines-Diliman.

He earned his Master of Fine Arts in Film and TV Production from Chapman University, a top film school in the United States.

Lim recalled that in graduate school, he included his parents—both retirees—in the cast for a class project. That time, the Lims, now in their 70s, were conveniently based in Orange County, California where Chapman University is located.

"Low-budget" seems to be a key factor in most of Lim's over 25 short films that have so far been screened in Toronto, California, Burma, the Cultural Center of the Philippines, GMA 7, IBC 13, the local SkyCable, various schools here, etc.

"I was always looking for ways where I would keep the budget at a minimum," Jonah recalled with a smile.

But "low budget" does not necessary mean low quality as evidenced by his films, which have been cited in international film festivals.

## Recognitions

His short film, "Afternoon Delight" was an official selection in last year's Raetihi Filmfest in New Zealand and in the Eksperimento Film and Video Festival in Manila.

The film was about a woman who realized that the people she hated were the same ones who ended up helping her.

His other film "Social Cancer" was also the 2002 Eksperimento official selection.

Lim's master's thesis at Chapman University, "Rescue in F Minor" got the Jury Citation for Short Fiction during the 2001 Eksperimento Film and Video Fest.

The film, which was about a man who accidentally killed his younger brother and then recovered with the help of a physically abused boy, was also in the official selection of the 2001 Cine-Manila International Filmfest.

Last year, "Kaibigan" was screened as a nominee for Best Feature Film in the Sabaoth International Filmfest in Milan, Italy.

"The various awards and citations only make me want to create more," said Lim.

He said he planned to continue producing films on the side while teaching eager mass communications students the ropes of filmmaking.

A full-length (1.5 hours) feature film is now on the drawing board, for which he plans to continue to experiment with non-mainstream, non-studio production.

"I will continue to work on universal themes of human relationships, the family, positive values which I believe are attractive to cross-cultural audiences," said Lim.

He also planned to continue to conduct workshops for organizations and help them with their film and video projects through documentaries or narratives. "I'd be happy to know that my students in class, or the participants in my workshops, will have learned from me enough to be able to effectively apply the basics of film and video production," Lim said.

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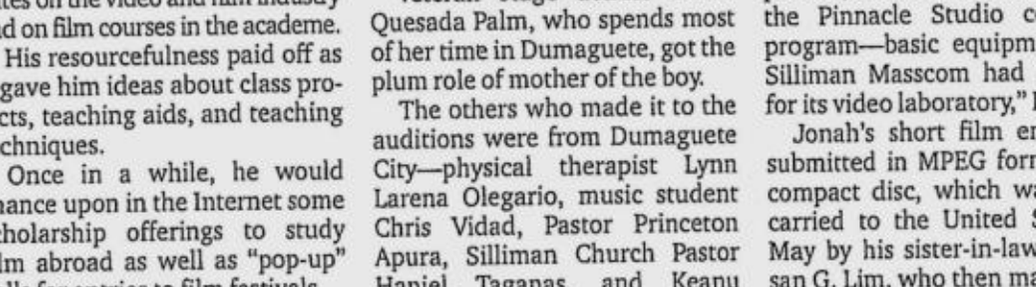

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# Bicol forests disappearing, says DENR exec

LEGAZPI CITY—BICOL'S FORESTS are fast disappearing, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The grim picture was painted by Oscar Hamada, DENR regional executive director, during an initial meeting of the reactivated Regional Multi-Sectoral Forest Protection Committee (RMFPC) here on Wednesday.

Hamada said that of the 1.76 million hectares total land area of the region, 541,189 hectares are classified as forest or timberland but only 141,431 hectares have actual forest covers.

The DENR official said Bicol had long reached what is called irreversible descent in its ecological balance, which requires a minimum of 60 percent forest cover.

Based on the 2003 Philippine Forestry Statistics, the existing forest cover of each province in the region are as follows: Albay—15,827 hectares, Camarines Sur—42,140 hectares, Camarines Norte—22,007, Catanduanes—42,140, Masbate—2,860 and Sorsogon—16,457 hectares.

Hamada said the log ban imposed by Environment Secretary Michael Defensor augurs well for the forest rehabilitation program of the government.

It was learned that all permits—special private land timber permit and private land timber permit—have been voided by the DENR and no such permits will be issued.

He said the DENR would allow the cutting only of trees that have been planted and registered with the DENR.

Antonio Abawag, regional technical director for forestry, said the present campaign of the DENR against illegal cutters in the region are facing difficulty due to a meager budget and lack of personnel.

Abawag revealed during the RMFPC meeting attended by various government agencies and non-government organizations that DENR-Bicol has only 125 forest rangers who cover 541,189 hectares or an average of 4,329 hectares per forest ranger.

This is exacerbated by the fact that at least 25 percent of these forest rangers are incapable of conducting actual patrol as they are either women, retirable or injured.

Worse, he said, there is not enough fund to sustain the campaign as his office only has a P744,000 annual budget for forest protection, which is to be divided among the six provinces.

With this, Hamada appealed to the members of the RMFPC to help the government in its mission to protect and conserve the remaining forests and rehabilitate the damaged ones.

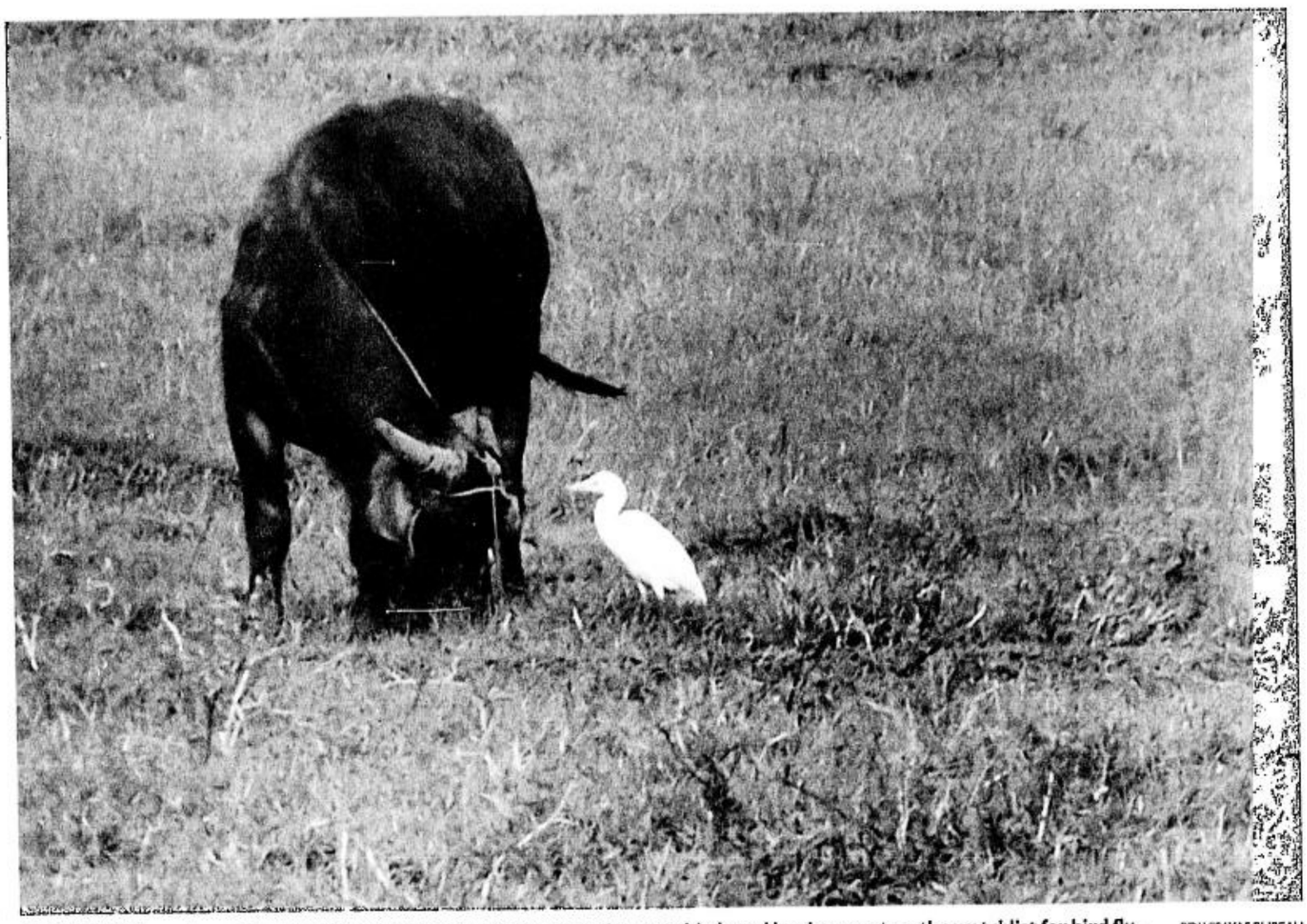
The official said that the current situation of Bicol forests could bring disasters to the populace, especially during the rainy season.

Mountains are now susceptible to erosions and low-lying areas are prone to flooding, he warned.

This is why, he said, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau is conducting a geo-hazard survey to determine these disaster-prone areas so that local government units could be informed.

Hamada said it's just fortunate that most of the typhoons that hit Luzon passed above the Bicol region, unlike before wherein Bicol was a favorite path for typhoons.

Hamada said he is pinning high hopes on the RMFPC that it would be a big help in the campaign to protect the remaining forests in the region. *Bobby Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



**ROXAS CITY** was tagged as one of the primary destinations of migratory birds and has been put on the watchlist for bird flu. PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

# NBI enters picture in Negros bird flu hoax

**By Carla P. Gomez**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

BACOLOD CITY—THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) here has conducted an investigation to determine the source of the text messages about the alleged presence of bird flu in Negros Occidental that has caused chicken sales to drop by about P4.2 million from Monday to Thursday.

NBI Bacolod chief Philip Pecache said that if the mobile phone companies would cooperate with them, they would be able to determine who was behind the spread of the text message that sabotaged the chicken industry in the province.

The text message began circulating on Saturday in Negros Occidental and other parts of the country and read: "Avoid eating chicken, Negros Occidental is positive for bird flu. Please send to your loved ones, this is not a joke, a migratory bird in Escalante (City) was tested positive."

Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon and Escalante Mayor Santiago Barcelona denied that a migratory bird in Escalante was tested positive for bird flu and assured that chickens in the province are free from bird flu.

Dr. Antonio Golez, deputy administrator of the Office of Civil Defense and spokesperson of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, also said all samples taken from poultry animals in Negros Occidental by the National Avian Influenza Task Force were tested negative for bird flu or any other influenza.

But the bird flu scare spawned by the text messages caused the sales of chicken to drop.

On Monday, the Poultry Association of Broiler Integrators (PABI) in Negros Occidental reported loses of about P750,000. The sales further dipped to P1.2 million per day from Tuesday to Thursday.

Pecache, Marañon and Provincial Veterinarian Renante Decena on Thursday to discuss how to put a stop to the chicken scare.

Also in the meeting were Dr. Antonio Utzurrum of the PABI and manager of Bounty Agro Ventures Inc.; Rey Geaga, supervisor of the San Miguel Purefoods Western Visayas poultry sales, and Nhurwin Cheng, Swift Foods Inc. Western Visayas sales specialist.

Marañon said he issued an executive order creating a Provincial Task Force on Avian Influenza that would be tasked to put up measures to prevent the entry of bird flu in the province.

The governor said the text message had been very damaging to the chicken industry and to the image of Negros Occidental.

"That is why we have asked the NBI to investigate the matter, so that punishment can be meted on those responsible for the damage caused to the chicken industry," he said.

# RP health sector put in doubt by bird flu

**By Maurice Malanes**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BAGUIO CITY—AFTER SUFFERing a mild stroke recently, Christian, a 21-year-old afflicted with Down Syndrome from Kibungan, Benguet, was taken to the town's government hospital where he was given first aid.

But given the hospital's limited equipment, health personnel could only do so much for Christian.

They thus advised Christian's family to bring him to this city, a four-hour drive away, for further check-up. Reason: The Kibungan hospital, actually a clinic, doesn't have an electrocardiograph (ECG), a device that detects heartbeat variations.

Now, a much healthier Christian is still considered lucky. Other patients could have died or have not recovered at all.

Ill-equipped hospitals, if not their absence particularly in the rural areas, are a cause for alarm among medical practitioners, especially amid what they consider as a real threat from the bird flu pandemic.

## Ill-prepared

"The country is ill-prepared once the bird flu pandemic reaches our country like a tsunami," warns Dr. Charles Cheng of the Baguio Filipino-Chinese General Hospital. "The threat is real and far worse than terrorists' attacks."

For one, the country doesn't have enough hospitals, he says.

Citing health department records, Cheng says the Cordillera, as of May this year, has 35 infirmaries or rural health clinics with a total bed capacity of 615; 19 primary hospitals (879 beds); two secondary hospitals (145 beds); and two tertiary hospitals (435 beds).

These hospitals have 2,099 beds combined, serving about 1.2 million people in the upland region, or a hospital bed for every 572 people. The ideal is a bed to 500 people.

If the infirmaries or rural health clinics, which are often ill equipped and lack personnel, are excluded, the ratio is a bed to 809 people.

Since the primary, secondary and tertiary hospitals are all in the urban centers, rural folk are at a disadvantage, Cheng says.

For Cheng, the shortage of hospitals in the Cordillera is "critical" in the light of the threatening bird flu pandemic.

## Grim picture

And even without the bird flu, the upland region's ill-equipped and understaffed hospitals already have their hands full with other equally serious illnesses such as hypertension, pneumonia, diabetes and malaria, says Cheng.

The national picture is also as grim as the Cordillera's. The country has 1,728 hospitals serving almost 86 million Filipinos, two-thirds of these are privately owned, and only a third are government-run, according to the Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines (PHAP).

Ninety-two percent of the private hospitals are primary and secondary, each of which has beds ranging from 10 to 40, and these are mostly in rural and remote areas.

Only 8 percent are tertiary level centers or hospitals with modern equipment and are found in larger cities like Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao.

Worse, more than 400 private hospitals have closed down last September in addition to 439 hospitals, which stopped operations in December 2004.

The reasons, according to PHAP, included lack of personnel, increase in wages, high cost of medicines, high cost of running and maintaining a hospital and bankruptcy or failure to pay loans due to management losses.

Already burdened with rising cost of hospital operations, PHAP members feel more threatened by some 42 bills at the House of Representatives, which, they say, could force many hospitals to stop operations.

## Threatening bills

PHAP cites House Bill 666, which demands all the rights and privileges of patients, indigent or rich, but does not mention any rights or privileges for hospitals.

There are also other bills for senior citizens, bills requiring hospitals to set up quarantine and isolation units for infectious diseases, and more bills requiring the creation of women and child protection units in all hospitals.

Cheng says many PHAP members feel that the government, which gives a paltry budget for health, must also look into the rights and concerns of private hospitals so they can become government's partners in delivering much needed health care services.

**BUSINESS GOES** on for livestock dealers along the Halsema Highway in Benguet as news of warnings of a bird flu pandemic spreads around the world. TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

# Health chief says irresponsible bird flu info disastrous

LEGAZPI CITY—HEALTH SECretary Francisco Duque III expressed dismay over the continuing misinformation, which is circulating through text messages and e-mails, that the Philippines, just like its neighboring Asian countries, is experiencing an avian or bird flu outbreak.

"This sounds alarming and a bit pathetic, for as far as the government is concerned, it is just doing all its best to prevent this disease from coming to the country—then, all of a sudden, this kind of misinformation will occur. For the record once again, there's no such thing as avian flu here in the country," Duque said.

He added that what the public may read, see, or hear in the media is but an advisory of the DOH so that the people will be vigilant and informed about the epidemic.

"Anything that goes beyond it, just ignore it," Duque said.

## Philippines clear

The Philippines is one of the nations in Southeast Asia that have not been affected by the sudden outbreak of bird flu since last month. Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, and even Cambodia have reported deaths caused by the disease.

Duque also stressed that the misinformation may even adversely affect the country's chicken and fowl industry since it generates a kind of hysteria that stops people from buying chicken and fowl.

He added that some people were even considering not eating "balut" (unhatched duck egg) because they were becoming paranoid about bird flu.

"Let's be considerate ... We should not add further burden to it because the present situation in our neighboring countries is already affecting their businesses. For the information of everybody, our chicken and other poultry products are healthy and most of all, very, very safe," Duque assured.

Duque's appeal came in the same week that poultry raisers and vendors in Negros Occidental asked the public to stop spreading text messages that falsely claimed the bird flu virus has hit the province.

## Damaging text

The "malicious and unfounded" text messages caused the sales of dressed chicken to drop by 40 percent or about P1.2 million on Tuesday, said Dr. Antonio Utzurrum, a member of the Poultry Association of Broiler Integrators in Negros Occidental.

The figure was higher than the 20 to 25 percent fall in sales reported on Monday, said Utzurrum, Negros manager of Bounty Agro Venture Inc.

Utzurrum said the bird flu scare had affected the sales of the four major boiler integrators in the province—San Miguel Food Inc., Bounty Agro Venture Inc., Swift and Vitarich.

He said these four would sell 30,000 chickens amounting to P3 million a day.

Before the scare, Utzurrum said there was a shortage in chicken supply. At least, he added, they would be able to stock up on supply for the expected increased demand this Christmas.

But he said the hardest hit would be the chicken retailers on the short term and the integrators on the long term.

Juancho Aguirre, a game fowl breeder, said sales of game fowls had not been affected yet by the bird flu scare.

## Punishment

But he said the person responsible for spreading the text message on bird flu presence in Negros Occidental should be shot because what he or she did was economic sabotage and was hurting the poultry industry.

"Those who receive such text messages should verify them first before passing them on because it is not doing any good to the province," he said. *Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

# Car repair shop open to cops

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE OWNER OF A CAR REPAIR SHOP IN Mandaluyong City plans to open his garage at 8 a.m. today to show he is not doing anything illegal.

Traffic Management Group operatives have been keeping an eye on the shop the past two days.

"We want this standoff to end," owner Julius Fortea told the Inquirer yesterday. "We want to clear our names because we are not doing anything wrong."

But the operatives would have to be accompanied by barangay officials, members of the media and even Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos, who lives nearby.

TMG operatives, who had been waiting outside the house on Kanlaon Street, Barangay Highway Hills since Thursday morning, still did not have a search warrant up to yesterday.

Fortea denied allegations there were stolen cars in his shop.

He also said he did not know Brian Dulay, a suspected car thief killed during an alleged shootout with the police Monday in Pasig.

# Metro's 14 most dangerous spots

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELopment Authority (MMDA) has identified the metropolis' "black spots," areas where accidents occurred most frequently in the past 10 months.

The MMDA advises motorists and commuters to be extra cautious when traveling in these areas.

A review of traffic accident cases in the Metro from January to October by the MMDA's Metro Road Safety Unit (MRSU) showed that all the top 14 accident-prone areas were major intersections in Quezon City.

Data compiled by the MRSU's Metro Manila Accident Reporting and Analysis System (MMARAS) showed that a total of 698 road accidents occurred in intersections along Edsa and other main Quezon City arteries. The accidents resulted in fatalities, injuries, and damage to property.

MMDA Traffic Engineering Center chief Ramon Ona, who presented the study during a recent road safety conference, said Edsa's intersections were included because the avenue was the most traveled thoroughfare.

The Metro's No. 1 "black spot" was the busy Edsa-Aurora Boulevard followed by the Edsa-Quezon Avenue intersection. In third place was the section of Katipunan Avenue fronting Ateneo de Manila University, and fourth was the Edsa-Bansalangin intersection near the busy SM North Edsa.

Also in the top 14 are Edsa-Arayat in Cubao, Edsa-Oliveros Drive near the Quezon-Caloocan boundary, and Edsa-Main Avenue and Edsa-Farmers in Cubao; the section in front of Camp Aguinaldo; the Edsa-Kamuning Flyover; the section of E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue fronting St. Luke's Medical Center, the Edsa-Kamias Road intersection, P. Tuazon Boulevard and 15th Avenue crossing.

## Factors

"If you look at the configuration of Edsa, you would see many flyovers and underpasses that contribute to irregular traffic flow," Ona told the INQUIRER.

"Most accidents were caused by drivers who were either drunk or sleepy, or pedestrians crossing the highway," said the engineer.

The MMDA has been studying measures to prevent road accidents. These include the placement of highly visible directional and cautionary signs, and the installation of footbridges in intersections where accidents involving pedestrians often occurred.

Meanwhile, the TEC, the engineering arm of the MMDA's Traffic Operations Center, is studying alternative designs to replace concrete barriers that had been a factor in several road accidents.

"We are trying to find an alternative that would have the same function as a concrete barrier but is lighter. We cannot do without the barriers because they are necessary at U-turn slots to prevent collisions," Ona explained.

Also being considered are road widening and additional street lighting in portions of Quezon Avenue, C5 Road, and Marcos Highway, the other accident-prone areas.

Ona said motorists and pedestrians could also try to keep themselves safe simply by obeying road rules.

"Just follow the regulations and be aware of the situation on the road. You can minimize (accidents) by following traffic rules," Ona said.

## Tips

To prevent accidents, the MMDA offers these tips to road users:

For commuters and pedestrians:

1. Use sidewalks at all times.

2-. When crossing roads, use pedestrian lanes and footbridges.

3. When waiting for a bus or jeepney, stay in designated loading bays or waiting sheds. Get off only in designated stops.

For motorists:

1. Follow basic road rules prohibiting drunk driving, speeding, and unnecessary swerving.

2. Whenever you feel too tired or sleepy, stop and take a rest. Better yet, avoid driving if you are sleepy.

3. Before driving, make sure your car's various parts, particularly the brakes, steering wheel, tires, and car lights, are working properly.

**MISSING HOME**
Misael Magallanes and his pet dog wonder where home is after a fire ate up their house last week in Tabing Dagat, Navotas. EDWIN BACASMAS

# Police arrest two alleged abortionists in Manila

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA GOVERNMENT yesterday ordered the city's police force to step up the campaign against abortionists in the city.

This followed the arrest by the Manila Police District of two alleged abortionists identified as Gemma Cruz, 35, and Marilou Sta. Maria, 39, both of Hulo, Malabon City, during an entrapment operation early this week.

The MPD Intelligence Unit were tipped off by the boyfriend of a 21-year-old student who planned to have an abortion.

The police raided around 8:30 p.m., Nov. 8, one of the rooms of the Town and Country Motel in Old Sta. Mesa, Manila where the procedure was supposed to take place.

Seized were several tools believed to be used by the suspects in their illegal trade.

Intentional abortion charges will be filed against the suspects, who are detained at the MPD headquarters.

## Crackdown

Recently, police also cracked down on sellers of products that supposedly induce abortion in areas near the Quiapo Church.

Mayor Lito Atienza, chair of Pro-Life Philippines, opposes artificial birth control methods and has been campaigning against contraceptives.

# Bodies of 2 boys retrieved

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE BODIES OF TWO BOYS WHO drowned in the Marikina River on Thursday night were found floating on Pasig River yesterday, kilometers away from where they disappeared.

Police said John-John Alispo, 10, was found floating on the Manggahan Floodway in Barangay Manggahan, Pasig City about 8:45 a.m. Mark Lester Vasquez, 18, was found floating on the river on Barangay Ugong also in Pasig City about 1:30 p.m., Pasig City Police duty radio officer SPO2 Baltazar Martinada said.

The two were playing on top of a steel bridge in Barangay Barangka, Marikina City when Alispo accidentally slipped and fell into the river. Vasquez tried to save the boy but was swept away by strong currents.

GREECE

PHOTO: BIEN BAUTISTA

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# Jaylo cries foul as more raps pile up vs him

JAYLO shows what he said were achievements of his men while he was head of the Presidential Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Force. REM ZAMORA

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF Investigation (NBI) yesterday filed more charges against Reynaldo Jaylo, chief of the disbanded Presidential Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Force (PAIRTF) and several other PAIRTF operatives as the beleaguered task force head accused the bureau of using him as its "whipping boy."

In a press conference at the task force's office in Manila yesterday morning, Jaylo said he had remained silent despite the stream of accusations and complaints against him and his men to allow the NBI to eventually clear his name. The agency filed additional arbitrary detention and usurpation of authority charges against Jaylo yesterday in the Department of Justice, in addition to earlier qualified bribery and robbery/extortion complaints against the former task force chief.

Jaylo stressed that they had only been doing their job in going after illegal recruiters, a task given to them by President Macapagal-Arroyo herself.

He had said earlier that their recent operations were conducted under the Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Force (AIRTF), as Malacañang had failed to renew the mandate of the PAIRTF last July. The task force chief also accused the NBI of engaging in an "unholy alliance with illegal recruiters."

He alleged that a notorious illegal recruiter and women trafficker even name-dropped operatives of law enforcement agencies, including the NBI, and pledged to pay P10 million just to see him in jail.

Deputy Director Lucio Margallo IV, intelligence officers Rodolfo Sosa, Cielito Coronel, Rosauro Dalisay, William Valenzona, Nicasio Ramoran, Dorvin Pena and former PAIRTF agent Cresencio Cabasal face kidnapping, serious illegal detention, and usurpation of authority charges. Robbery/extortion and arbitrary detention charges were also filed against SPO1 Romeo Noriega and PO3 Francisco Quito and arbitrary detention complaints against fellow policemen PO2 Geronimo Opelac and a certain PO3 F. Ponce. Eight more PAIRTF agents were nabbed last week.

# Watch out for the new 'technopreneurs'

By DJ Yap

A HOSPITAL BED THAT ALLOWS patients to turn from their back to their side and vice versa. A feminine wash made of guava, sampaguita and gugo. Bioglass fashioned from eggshells. A car device that increases engine power and fuel economy.

One need not look far to find proof of Filipino ingenuity, as demonstrated by these and 70 other inventions to be featured at the 2005 National Inventors Week, an exposition and fair showcasing inventions and new technologies set Nov. 17-21 at the Philippine Trade Training Center in Pasay City.

For the Department of Science and Technology, the challenge for Filipino inventors is not where to find creativity, but how to channel it. Or more simply, how to turn out new "technopreneurs."

This year, DOST is bent on boosting the entrepreneurial spirit among Filipino inventors, who, while not lacking in creativity, often lack the business savvy to market their inventions.

At a press conference yesterday in Quezon City, organizers said it was time for Filipino inventors to become technopreneurs, a term describing technology-driven innovators with a keen business sense.

"Technopreneurs are a special breed of businessmen whose work has a lot of technology value (and uses) research breakthroughs to introduce new products to the market," said Lourdes Orijola, DOST assistant secretary and officer in charge of Technology Application and Promotion Institute.

Most inventors lack management and marketing skills, making their otherwise useful inventions unknown to the public, she added.

The affair seeks to encourage collaboration between inventors and the business sector, particularly small-and-medium enterprises, to boost the Philippines' competitiveness in an increasingly globalized marketplace, she said.

"SMEs find it hard to compete because many of them are not innovative. To commercialize inventions, those in research-and-development institutions and academe, as well as inventors themselves, should collaborate with SMEs," she said.

Orijola said the DOST had also invited business groups such as the Philippine Chamber of Commerce to participate in the week-long affair to attract investors.

The goal is to make useful inventions available to the public through large-scale production, she said.

# Graft charge against Fresnedi dismissed

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE OMBUDSMAN DISMISSED the graft charge against Muntinlupa City Mayor Jaime Fresnedi.

Citing lack of merit, the Ombudsman dismissed the case against Fresnedi filed by Rafael Arciaga during last year's campaign.

Included in the complaint were acting city accountant Edwin Suitado, chief accountant Lualhati Morales and treasurer Nelia Barlis.

Arciaga accused the city officials of, among others, misuse of the Special Education Fund (SEF) worth more than P104 million and non-remittance of payments amounting to P37 million to the Bureau of Internal Revenue, PhilHealth, Pag-Ibig and the Government Insurance Service System.

The complainant based his charges on the Commission on Audit report issued Dec. 31, 2001.

Ramon Pamular, graft investigation and prosecution officer II, said in his decision the respondents clearly explained the use of the SEF.

# Let's not prejudge cops in Ortigas shootout

ON TARGET

*Ramon Tulfo*

LET'S NOT BE TOO HASTY IN JUDGING the policemen who shot down three suspected car thieves at the Ortigas Center in Pasig Monday night.

**The suspects were armed and dangerous.**

In fact, they shot and wounded one of the cops who flagged them down, Senior Insp. Samson Belmonte. Belmonte was hit in the leg and was seen limping and being helped by fellow cops after the firefight.

**The cops' fault was their overreaction or overzealousness.**

But can you blame the other cops for shooting at the already immobile suspects? They, too, were afraid of getting hit like their comrade Belmonte.

**During the clearing-up operation at the Bicutan jail in the aftermath of the hostage-taking incident involving some Abu Sayyaf detainees, a policeman was shot and killed by a wounded detainee who was lying on the pavement.**

The Israeli commandos in the now famous Entebbe airport rescue in the 1970s suffered a casualty. Their commander, who was presumed dead, was shot by one of the hostage takers.

**Just because the suspects are scions of prominent and wealthy families, the public wants the police to account for shooting them to death?**

When those guys stole or hijacked cars they knew what was coming to them if they got caught. They didn't hesitate to kill or wound their victims who resisted.

**Now, why should they be treated differently from car thieves or carjackers who live in the slum areas?**

C'mon, guys, let's not have compartmentalized justice here.

* * *

**When the cops don't catch criminals, the public denounces them. And when they do catch criminals—as in the Ortigas shootout—we still denounce them.**

It's a case of "damned if they do and damned if they don't."

***Saan naman ilalagay ang mga pulis?* Where does that leave the police?**

* * *

President Macapagal-Arroyo said she doesn't regret disclosing a report that broadcast journalist Julius Babao was instrumental in having a Muslim terrorist suspect post bail.

**What should she do? She was right about Babao helping the detained suspect, Dawud Santos, gain freedom.**

Okay, the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) was wrong in saying Babao paid Dawud's bail bond. The Isafp report was the basis for Ms Arroyo's disclosure.

**But subsequent reports gathered by this columnist bore out the Isafp. Dawud himself admitted Babao had acted as guarantor with the insurance company that posted his bail.**

Paying for Dawud's bail bond and acting as guarantor with the insurance company for his bail amount to the same thing.

* * *

**Dawud would later say that after the news about Babao came out in the papers, Vice President Noli de Castro called him.**

De Castro, in his radio program, said Dawud called him up to clear Julius Babao.

**But the opposite is true, according to Dawud. It was De Castro who sought him out.**

Dawud said the Vice President called him on his cellular phone. To prove that he was telling the truth, he gave De Castro's cell phone number: 09153153426.

**De Castro asked him to clear Babao and denounce the Isafp, Dawud said.**

Will the Vice President please say Dawud is a liar?

## METROBRIEFS

### Naughty e-mail

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is tracing the source of a circulating e-mail accusing Iloilo Rep. Ferjenel Biron of having a relationship with Cassandra Ponti, a participant in ABS-CBN's reality TV show Pinoy Big Brother. NBI Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division (AFCCD) chief Elfren Meneses Jr. said Biron had earlier sought the NBI's help to find the author of the "malicious and defamatory" e-mail. The author of the e-mail alleged that Ponti was "a former girlfriend and lover who used to be the escort of Congressman F.B. of Iloilo." The NBI invited Abante Tonite columnist Jun Lalin and Roldan Castro of Tumbok to shed light on the source of the message. Lalin said a fan had sent him the e-mail. Castro, however, failed to appear. Cassandra would address the issue when she leaves the show, said director Lauren Dyogi, also one of the business unit managers in charge of the reality TV show. Based on rules of the show, participants are not allowed to contact the outside world before they are "evicted." Participants or "housemates" also have no access to phones and other means of communications, including newspapers and television. *Margaux C. Ortiz and Nini Valera*

### GMA in Caloocan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, in a holiday mood, greeted Caloocan City an early Merry Christmas at the Kasarinlan Elementary School as she distributed books and gave out PhilHealth cards to residents. At the same time, a job fair and medical mission were also held in the school court. The festive air was marred by the arrest of two armed traffic enforcers minutes before the President's arrival. John Buenaventura and Ryan Marcelo were charged with illegal possession of firearms. Police said the men were not authorized to carry guns. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

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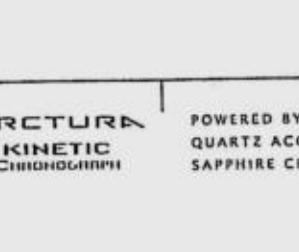

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# SPORTS

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**BASKETBALL:** NBA – Lakers vs Sixers; 9 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); ESPN; Nuggets vs Kings; 11 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Solar Sports – Kobe takes on Al even as Denver visits Sacramento.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

# Pumaren still eyeing return as DLS coach

**By Francis Ochoa**

PUMAREN

WHEN ALL THIS IS OVER AND done with, Franz Pumaren hopes for two things to happen: One, that the probe of the La Salle scandal will snare the right culprits. Two, that he will be cleared and be reinstated as La Salle head coach.

A day after word of his resignation came out, La Salle announced that it had accepted the resignation of Pumaren and four other school and basketball officials even as the champion mentor bared hopes of being at the helm of the team.

"It is my earnest hope that, when the investigation reconfirms my innocence, I be reinstated as head coach in order to put all speculations to rest," Pumaren said in a resignation letter submitted to La Salle president Bro. Armin Luistro, FSC.

Luistro also issued a statement yesterday, saying the school accepted the resignations of Pumaren, team manager Terry Capistrano, office of sports development head Bro. Roberto Casingal, FSC, Daniel Jose and university registrar Edwin Santiago to "embark on a thorough and comprehensive review of its sports program."

"The entire Lasallian community is highly appreciative of their selfless acts," Luistro said.

Pumaren said he reached the decision "with the welfare of the institution in mind" and clarified that he was not "asked by any official from the university to make this move."

"Though my name has never been mentioned by anyone or at anytime during the investigation, my detractors have nevertheless used this unfortunate incident to continue to malign my good name and reputation with baseless and unjustifiable accusations," Pumaren wrote.

# Air21 trips SMB

**GAME TODAY (*Zamboanga City*)**
4:30 p.m.—Talk N Text vs Sta. Lucia Realty
**GAMES TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)**
4:10 p.m.—Purefoods vs Red Bull Barako
6:40 p.m.—Alaska vs Coca-Cola

**By June Navarro**

**AIR21 WAS THOUGHT TO HAVE sacrificed too much when it traded promising rookie Mac Cardona to Talk 'N Text for Patrick Fran in the off-season.**

Fran justified that move last night by sinking two pressure-packed freethrows a rookie could have possibly muffed to help the Express post a 90-86 win over the San Miguel Beermen in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

And suddenly, San Miguel, a team steeped in championship tradition, is in its worst eight-game start in 19 years after absorbing its seventh defeat against a lone victory.

Fran's charities with 17.6 seconds left gave his team an 88-84 cushion while Danny Seigle struggled from the line on the other end as the Express went on to redeem themselves from a double-overtime heartbreaker against the Beermen two weeks ago.

"I hate to admit it but I was really praying for those misses," said Air21 head coach Bo Perasol, referring to Seigle's series of unfortunate trips to the line.

Seigle missed six out of eight from the charity stripe in the final period, including a pair of freebies with less than a minute remaining that could have tied the game and possibly reversed the outcome.

Seigle, who finished with 17 points and seven rebounds, also muffed two of his final four freethrows following Fran's success from the line, sealing the Beermen's defeat.

The Beermen flubbed 16 of their 33 freethrow attempts for a 51.5-percent clip while the Express was 60 percent after sinking 14 of 23.

"It all boiled down to our defensive execution," said Perasol. "We were able to unsettle them and take several touches away from Olsen (Racela)."

Danny Ildefonso also fell prey to the Express' stingy defense after uncharacteristically fumbling at a time when every possession could tell heavily on both sides.

Shawn Daniels led all scorers with 22 points on top of 20 rebounds, 10 of them offensive boards while Ritualo added 20 for the Express, who picked up their fourth win in nine outings.

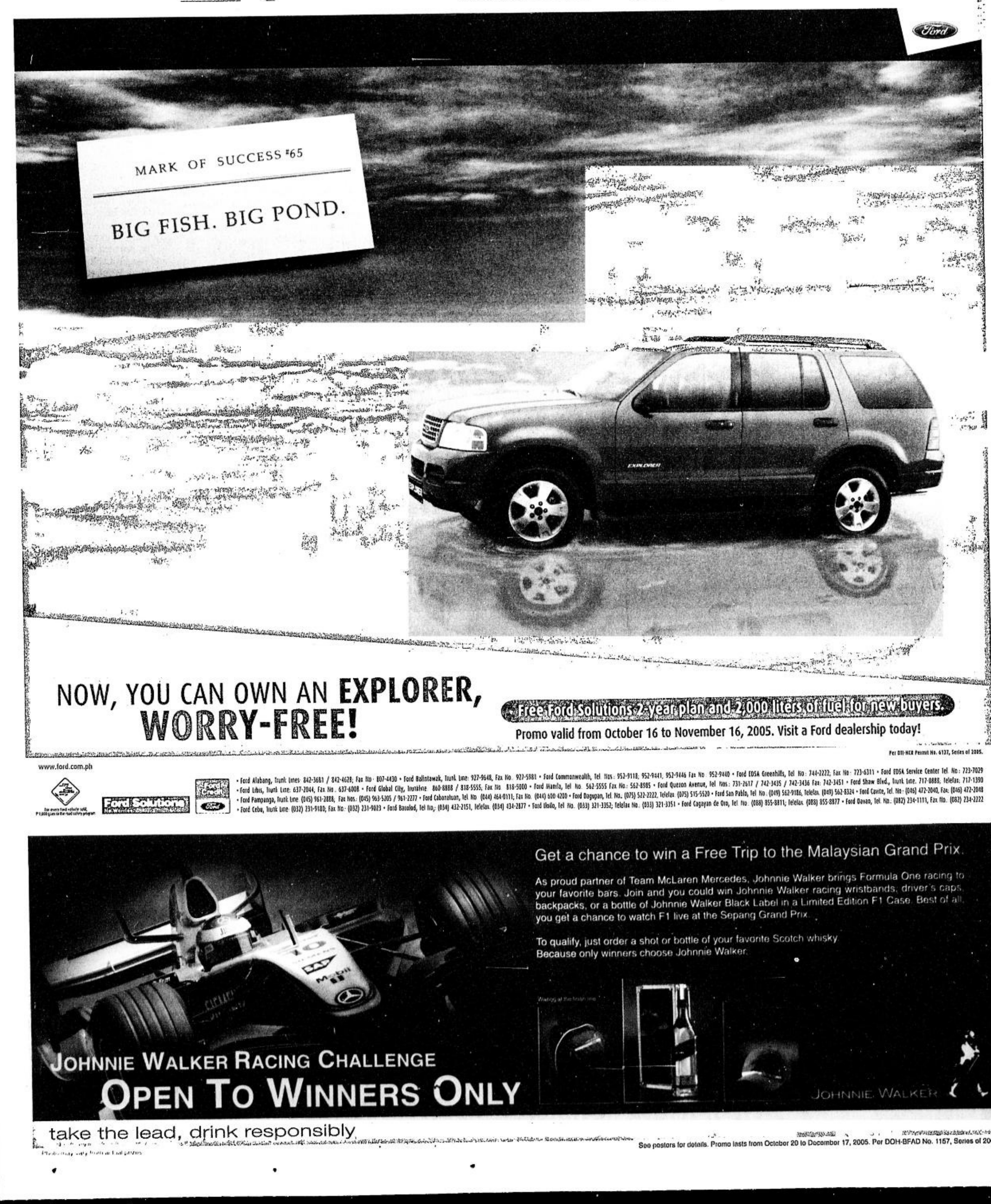
**The scores:**

**First Game**

**AIR21 90**—Daniels 22, Ritualo 20, Ferriols 10, Y. De Ocampo 10, Tubid 8, Canaleta 7, R. De Ocampo 5, David 5, Fran 2, Dacia 1, Gonzales 0, Se 0, Arboleda 0.

**SAN MIGUEL 86**—Johnson 19, Seigle 17, Belasco 16, Ildefonso 10, Peña 10, Calaguio 5, Hontiveros 5, Racela 4, Adriano 0, Villoria 0.

**Quarters:** 19-25, 42-48, 70-69



# Pinoy boxers aim to dislodge Thais as SEAG champs

By Dennis U. Eroa
*Inquirer Libre sports editor*

"DISLODGE THAILAND."

This, according to Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny T. Lopez, is the country's battle cry in the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

Lopez said the Nationals have prepared long and hard to stop the Thai juggernaut in the biennial Games.

"We left no stones unturned in our bid to regain supremacy," said Lopez. "We're coming to Bacolod City ready to do battle against the tough Thais."

In the Vietnam SEAG two years ago, the Nationals got clobbered by the world-class Thais, who reigned supreme with seven gold medals and one silver medal.

Light-flyweight Harry Tañamor gave the country its lone gold medal. Tañamor, champion in this year's 23rd Asian Seniors Championships, is leading the country's bid in the SEAG.

Other RP hopefuls are pinweight Juanito Magliquian, flyweight Warlito Parreñas, bantamweight Joan Tipon, lightweight Genebert Basadre, light-welterweight Jason Melligen, welterweight Romeo Brin and middleweight Reynaldo Galido.

Five golds are at stake in women's boxing which will make its first appearance in the SEAG.

Asian champion Mitchel Martinez, Alice Kate Aparri, Annie Albania, Analisa Cruz and Jouvilet Chilem will carry the country's colors.

Earlier, Lopez expressed no surprise that Thailand is sending a crack team composed of Olympics, Worlds and Asian Games medalists to the SEAG.

Olympics light-welterweight gold medalist Manus Boonjumnong, silver medalist Worapoj Petchkoom and reigning World and Asian Games flyweight titlist Somjit Jongjohor are expected to carry the fight for the Thais.

"This goes to show that the Thais are determined to regain supremacy but we aren't afraid a bit," said Lopez.

Aside from competitions abroad, the Nationals are fresh from the inaugural International Joint Training program in Baguio City.

TAÑAMOR: Philippines' top hope

# Pacquiao flies to US after all

Salven L. Lagumbay

FILIPINO BOXING HERO Manny Pacquiao left last night for Los Angeles to take part in the promotional caravan drumming up his return showdown with Mexican icon Erik "El Terrible" Morales on Jan. 21 at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas.

There were initial plans for Pacquiao to fly to Cebu today to start his rigid training, as the promotional tour was reportedly being shelved. As it turned out, Pacquiao was advised to take last night's flight.

On Saturday (Sunday in Manila), both Pacquiao and Morales will be in Las Vegas to promote their fight, which is billed as "The Battle" by promoter Bob Arum.

On Tuesday, the two fighters then motor to Los Angeles for yet another round of promotional effort.

Pacquiao is set to return to the country on Nov. 18, and will fly to Cebu for the start of his regular training.

"This is a fight we're very excited about," said Arum in a release sent to the media. "Both Morales and Pacquiao give it their all, each and every second while in the ring."

Morales had bested Pacquiao in their first encounter, a 12-round classic on March 19.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao trainer Freddie Roach expressed confidence there will be a different outcome in the second fight.

"We're going to be wearing Reyes, a real punchers glove. I think it makes a big difference this time," Roach said, referring to the first encounter where Pacquiao was forced to use a different brand of gloves.

The rematch between Morales and Pacquiao will be promoted by Top Rank, Wynn Las Vegas and will be aired on HBO Pay Per View.

# Birdie-binge gives Macatangay Amateur title

CALAMBA, LAGUNA—TERENCE Macatangay unloaded a barrage of three birdies on his last four holes to highlight a wire-to-wire victory in the final Samsung Amateur Tour eliminations leg that took a bizarre turn when Anthony Fernando was disqualified for another rules oversight yesterday.

Macatangay and Fernando actually teed off on their last hole, the par-5 ninth after they started on the front nine, tied for the lead. The 18-year-old Macatangay then broke the heart of Fernando by sinking a 25-footer for birdie.

Disappointed after failing to match Macatangay's birdie, Fernando later picked up his coin marker and it was not after being reminded to hole out by the third player in their flight, Benjie Sarmiento, that he did.

When the scorecards were submitted, it was discovered that Fernando had failed to include a one-stroke penalty for picking up his marker before holding out.

The 18-year-old Macatangay, a jungolf standout from La Salle-Lipa, scored his best round in four days of three-over-par for a 72-hole aggregate of 306 at the Ayala Greenfield Estates course.

Fernando had a 76 for a 307 total but not including the stroke penalty on the last hole. But with his disqualification, Jong Laput, who fired the tournament's best round of even-par 72 for 315, claimed second place.

Completing the winners roster were Gary Sales in Class A and Bill Yoon in Class B of the tourney also sponsored by Tokyo Tokyo, KZG, Microtel, Coppertone Sport, Srixon, Philippine Airlines as the official carrier, Sunbolt, Rudy Project, C-Lium Fiber and Sports Plus.

Media partners are Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3, 89.9, 99.5 RT. 103.5 K-Lite and Killer Bee.

Sales sizzled with a one-over 73-153 to finish seven strokes ahead of John Tambogon (80-160) while Yoon (81-161) also won with plenty to spare as Benny Hurtado wound up at 167 after an 80.

Macatangay joined the previous leg winners in next year's finals slated at the Summit Point Golf and Country Club in Lipa, Batangas. They are national pool members Boyet Saragoza, Erwin Vinluan, Mike Bibat and Tonton Asistio. Should Macatangay becomes unavailable, Laput will take his place.

On Tuesday, tournament favorite Kim Chang Hoi was disqualified for dropping from a wrong place.

# Harbour Centre, Magnolia aspire to keep clean slates

HARBOUR CENTRE AND MAGNOlia Dairy Ice Cream hope to keep their unblemished records when they take on separate opponents in the 2006 PBL Heroes Cup today at the FEU Gym.

The Port Masters are expected to hurdle past winless Toyota Otis in the 2 p.m. opening game and claim win No. 3, judging from the way they disposed of the Insurers (87-78) last Thursday.

Likewise, the Wizards are picked against Hapee-Philippine Christian University at 4 p.m. for their third straight win.

Rain or Shine, seeking to jump back in orbit after getting derailed by Magnolia, will train its sights on hapless Far Eastern Insurance in the nightcap at 6.

The Elasto Painters and Teeth Masters, the protagonists in last year's championship series, share 1-1 slates while Toyota and Far Eastern Insurance have yet to win in two games.

Rookie Marcy Arellano is the marked man for Harbour after his spectacular game against Far Eastern where he scored most of his points in the crucial fourth quarter.

Providing experience for the Port Masters are Joseph Yeo, Jerome Paterno, Rob Reyes and Jerwin Gaco.

Yet Harbor coach Dindo Pumaren wasn't satisfied with the way his wards are playing, noting the big imbalance in their aggressiveness. The Port Masters, he said, need to ratchet up the offense especially against the taller Toyota squad.

Joe Devance and Boyet Bautista are counted upon to deliver for Toyota Otis which is nursing a two-game losing run.

Providing drama in the Hapee-Magnolia showdown is the bitter rivalry between Magnolia's Arwind Santos, the back-to-back UAAP MVP, and Hapee's Gabby Espinas, the former NCAA MVP.

Both standing 6-foot-4 with lean, athletic frames, Santos and Espinas possess distinct styles of play that would practically ensure them of a career in the professional league.

Santos is the all-around go-to-guy with a mean outside shooting, while Espinas operates inside and creates vast opportunities for his teammates. Backing up Espinas is the backcourt duo of Jason Castro and Mark Moreno.

Jojo Tangkay will be the take-charge guy for Rain or Shine, proving it in their first two games where he averaged 24 points. He will be needing a lot of help from Marvin Ortiguera, JR Reyes, Ronjay Enrile, Jay Coching and Erwin Sta. Maria. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

**GAMES TODAY** *(FEU Gym)*
2 p.m.—Toyota Otis vs H. Centre
4 p.m.—Magnolia vs Hapee
6 p.m.—Far Eastern Ins.
vs Rain or Shine

**FOOTBALL CHAMPS: The triumphant boys of The Little Farm House Holistic and Development Center, known as HedCen, with Philippine Football Federation president Johnny Romualdez and owner/athletic director Sugar Gutierrez (center). The HedCen boys won the gold in the 1994 and 1996 age category and placed third in the '98 division of the recent Red Ribbon-PFF-RIFA Football Festival.**

## RP booters train in Bacolod

THE PHILIPPINE FOOTBALL TEAM IS IN BAcolod City for the final leg of its preparations for the Southeast Asian Games.

The squad left Tuesday after mass and a *despedida* lunch tendered by the Philippine Football Federation (PFF) at its headquarters at the Ultra (PhilSports).

PFF president Johnny Romualdez spoke to the team and presented to them a poster entitled "Pinoy Football Explosion."

The poster was created as part of the federation's program to harness people-support for the men's and women's teams and create awareness for the sport in the SEA Games.

The red, white, blue and yellow colored poster was designed and printed by Asia Speedy Printing Centers and will be posted in school campuses and other locations beginning next week.

The Philippines plays defending champions Thailand in its opening match on Nov. 24 in Bacolod City.

## Franz beaten to the draw?

**IN HUDDLE**

*Beth Celis*

AT FIRST I THOUGHT Green Archers coach Franz Pumaren was beaten to the draw.

His older brother Derick said Franz had considered resigning from his post as head coach of the Green Archers after team manager Terry Capistrano set the precedent some days ago. According to Derick, Franz had in fact discussed this matter with a high-ranking DLSU official prior to his departure for Hawaii, but nothing was finalized during the talk.

If at all, I was told that Franz would have handed in his resignation when he returns from his trip to Hawaii where the Green Archers are playing a series of goodwill matches.

* * *

As of now, Franz is still coaching the team, which is expected to fly back to Manila next Tuesday, Nov. 15. From Hawaii, Franz will proceed to San Francisco and Los Angeles, where he will take a return flight for home. He should be here by Nov. 25, said Derick.

Franz must have received dozens of overseas calls from media and friends yesterday, seeking confirmation of his resignation, but I doubt if anyone got a response from him.

I know I didn't. Not from him, not from his father Pilo nor from his brothers Derick and Dindo.

I thought they were all being on the level. Or might it be that they didn't really know that Franz had actually submitted his letter of resignation to Bro. Armin Luistro dated Nov. 8. A copy of the letter was sent to the PDI office, reason why I had to rewrite this portion of my column.

Otherwise, I would have looked utterly clueless. If Franz has resigned, satisfying the clamor of many alumni, does this mean that the rally scheduled today at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium is off?

* * *

The entire tennis community is upbeat. After years of wooing and getting rejected, Fil-Am tennis pros Cecil Mamiit and Eric Taino, ranked 207 and 213, respectively, in the ITF ranking, have finally agreed to play for the Philippines in the Southeast Asian Games.

With the two leading the national team, newly appointed manager for the SEAG tennis squad Jean Henri Lhuillier believes we now have the right ingredients to become overall champion in the event.

Former Philta president Col Buddy Andrada shares Jean Henri's optimism. He described the RP players as "formidable."

* * *

According to the Professional Tennis Ratings website, Taino played a total of 34 matches the past year with an 18-win, 16-loss record. This was an excellent year for him.

Mamiit, on the other hand, has a highest recorded rating of 1825, which indicates that he is an expert tennis player, among the top 10 percent of all tennis professionals.

Best friends, the two are arriving in Manila on Nov. 22.

* * *

According to Jean Henri, wife Bea (formerly Lucero), a gymnastics and Taekwondo champ, had wanted to compete in the Wushu event of the SEAG.

According to Jean, Bea was so serious about her plan that she even hired a personal trainer, working practically all day to master the new event she was eyeing.

"I was amazed when I and our two boys saw, for the first time, the result of her training. The boys said, 'Wow mommy's flying in the air.' Indeed she could fly. Even I was very impressed," Jean said.

Unfortunately, Bea only took runner-up honors in the qualifying tournament for wushu, where only the top finisher can gain entry to the national team.

* * *

The illegal expulsion case filed by the BAP against the POC had its third hearing at the sala of Judge Manuel Barrios yesterday. No one showed up to represent the POC.

Realizing that time is of the essence, the fourth and last hearing has been set next Tuesday, Nov. 15.

Judge Barrios announced that he will be handing down a decision after Tuesday, which BAP legal counsel Carlos "Bonito" Alentajan believes will be in the BAP's favor.

## SPORTSWATCH

### 10th Alaska Cup today

THE 10th ALASKA CUP FOOTBALL FESTIVAL WILL be held at the Alabang Country Club fields in Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City today. The Alabang Football School in coordination with the NCRFA and the Alabang Country Club is organizing the event. Two hundred registered teams and 3,000 football players will compete in an intense and fun-filled two-day football festival. Teams will be coming from Metro Manila and cities and provinces like Cebu, Antipolo, Baguio, Bukidnon, Nasugbu, Pampanga, Subic, Lipa, Canlubang, Los Baños and Biñan. "The purpose of the tournament is to provide all football enthusiasts the opportunity to foster and exhibit sportsmanship in a competitive, safe and friendly environment and to encourage and promote youth football development—our long-term commitment to our youth," said Joaqui Trillo, Alaska's Sports Development Manager.

### NCA Grand derby

THE NATIONAL COCKERS ASSOCIATION (NCA), REgarded as the premiere and most prestigious group of bigtime cockers, will present the annual Grand National Championship 8-stag derby on Nov. 14 and 16 at the Makati Coliseum. According to Gov. Ito Ynares, NCA president, this event will determine the NCA Stagfighter of the Year winner. It is for this reason that all participants will field their previous stag winners. Based on the latest rankings, Rep. Jing Paras and Biboy Enriquez (McKinley Firebird ) and Lito Orillaza ( PCAP WTJ Makati Col.) are the Stagfighter race leaders with 26 points each. But Rep. Gerry "Boy" Espina, Jun Santiago, Patrick Antonio, Vice Gov. Boyet Joson and Rep. Ronnie Puno, co- champions in the NCA derby Thursday night, are just a few points behind. Aficionados can expect more than 80 fights on Monday's 4- stag opening round, where guest participants from Negros Occidental, Davao, Cebu, Pampanga and Tarlac will compete. The Negros delegation will field ten entries, headed by Tony Trebol, Boy Velez and Johnny Jalandoni.

### Roligon stagfest today

ROLIGON MEGA COCKPIT'S CLEAN-UP 4-STAG derby sizzles at 5 p.m. today, with 72 matches on tap starting at 5 p.m. Sponsors are Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone. Participants from the provinces will be allowed to present their stags today for simultaneous screening and weigh-in, 7-11 a.m. Likewise, stags previously banded for Stag Festival derby are automatically accepted. Those banded by Coronel for "Labanan" stagfest are also allowed (blue leg bands only). Entry fee is P5,500 and guaranteed prize is P300,000. The Apordabol Na, Incredibol Pa 5-cock derby is slated on Dec. 5, 7, 10 and 12. Host Rolly Ligon has put up a whopping P2 million plus a brand new Mazda for the the fastest win champion. Entry fee is P8,800. Call 851-2275, 833-1638 and 852-9812.

### Para bets cut to 160

THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION TO THE 3rd Asean Para Games next month has been reduced to just 160 from around 300 due to lack of funds, but athletes and officials are still confident of making a decent finish. Team Philippines is looking to surpass its eighth place finish two years ago in Vietnam where it won two gold, 15 silver and 23 bronze medals.

## Dancesport team hopes to do well for RP in Indoor Games

**By Jasmine W. Payo**

BANGKOK—THE OVERALL HONors may be out of reach, but the Philippine dancesport team hopes to swing around the competition when the 1st Asian Indoor Games fires off today at the Huamark Sports Complex here in Thailand.

"We have very strong chances in dancesport," predicted Philippine chef de mission Harry Angping. "This will be the same group representing the country in the Southeast Asian Games."

The 11 pairs from the RP dancesport team comprise of nearly half of the 52 Filipino athletes competing in the eight-day tournament, which drew more than 2,000 participants from 37 countries.

The Philippines will be competing in five out of the nine sports featured in the Indoor Games, which has 121 gold medals at stake.

Filipino athletes will also see action in women's futsal, muay thai, aerobics and extreme sports (BMX stunts and sports climbing).

"We don't have entries in the medal-rich events so we can't vie for a strong overall finish," said assistant chef de mission Red Dumuk. "Japan and China are the strong bets since they have entries in almost all events. There's also Korea and Thailand."

The Philippines won't be competing in swimming, which has the most gold medals at stake with 40, athletics (26 golds), indoor cycling (5) and hoop takraw (2).

"It's quite unfortunate that we can't join the other sports," said Dumuk. "Our athletes raised their own funds just to compete in this tournament. The others, like swimming, had to back out because they didn't have enough funds."

But Angping noted that the Philippines could also deliver some surprises in futsal and muay thai.

Most of the Philippine delegation will arrive in the next two days and only the RP futsal team will be parading for the country during the opening ceremonies set at 11 a.m. today.

The dancesport competion is scheduled on Nov. 14 and 15, with Dancesport Council president Becky Garcia leading the Philippine campaign

In previous tournaments, the country has been banking on the pairs of Michael Mendoza and Belinda Adora, Rico Rosena and Fe Salvador, John Errol Melencio and Dearlyn Herodias, and Noel Reyes and Maira Rosete.

Dancesport will also debut in the 23rd SEA Games that will be held in Manila on Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.




| MODEL | DESCRIPTION | YEAR | SRP | Now |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| F650CS | Titanium Silver | 2003 | 723,000 | 410,000 |
| F650CS | Azure Blue Metallic | 2003 | 723,000 | 470,000 |
| F650CS | Stone Grey | 2004 | 723,000 | 500,000 |
| F650GS | Iceberg Silver Metallic | 2004 | 713,000 | 570,000 |
| R1100S | Pacific Blue / Alpine White | 2003 | 1,000,000 | 700,000 |
| R1150R | Night Black | 2005 | 896,000 | 750,000 |
| R1150R | Dark Ferro Metallic | 2004 | 896,000 | 800,000 |
| R1150R | Titanium Silver | 2004 | 896,000 | 800,000 |
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## Council OKs . . .

From page A32

cause of threats of sanction from the international federation of basketball but because a specific rule of the SEAGFC prevents the Philippines from staging basketball," said Cojuangco.

The rule stipulates that the national federation of the host country should appoint the judges, referees and other officials in all the disciplines included in the Games. With the BAP suspended, the country doesn't have a federation for the sport.

The news came as a "big disappointment" to several members of the Southeast Asian Games Federation Council. But in the end, members chose to "present a solid and united stand" in support of the Philippines' decision to scrap the basketball tournament in the 23rd edition of the biennial meet on Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

"It's very bad for us because we have prepared our basketball team for many years," said Dr. Pratoom Muongmee, associate secretary general of the Basketball Association of Thailand, during the council's special meeting yesterday at the Imperial Hotel here in Thailand.

"We have spent a lot of money, effort and time. But I also understand the Philippines' situation."

# Sharapova 'fights' way past Davenport

**LOS ANGELES—SCOLDING HERSELF TO "fight, fight, fight" in the third set, Maria Sharapova outlasted top-ranked Lindsay Davenport, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, at the WTA Championships on Thursday night, with both players advancing to the semifinals.**

Amelie Mauresmo of France defeated Russian Elena Dementieva, 6-2, 6-3, to ensure a spot in the semifinals, along with Frenchwoman Mary Pierce, who was idle Thursday.

With the four berths locked up, Friday's matches are virtually meaningless except for deciding the semifinal pairings.

Mauresmo's victory also eliminated No. 2 Kim Clijsters, who is 0-2 with one match remaining, and clinched the year-end No. 1 ranking for Davenport for the fourth time in her career.

"It is hard to really cheer for someone else to lock something up for me," Davenport said, adding, "It is great. A year ago, I wouldn't have thought it was possible."

Davenport has a 155-point lead over Clijsters in the rankings, but the Belgian needed to make the semifinals to overtake Davenport.

Sharapova, the defending champion, needed three match points before closing out the match after 2 hours, 8 minutes with a 107-mph (172-kph) ace. The 18-year-old Russian dropped her racket, raised her arms and soaked in the crowd's applause.

"I played smart tennis," she said. "I took out her strengths. It was exciting to beat someone who's been playing such amazing tennis. I'm very, very happy about it."

Davenport walked off the court, shook the umpire's hand and had her back turned by the time Sharapova caught up to her on the sideline for a halfhearted handshake.

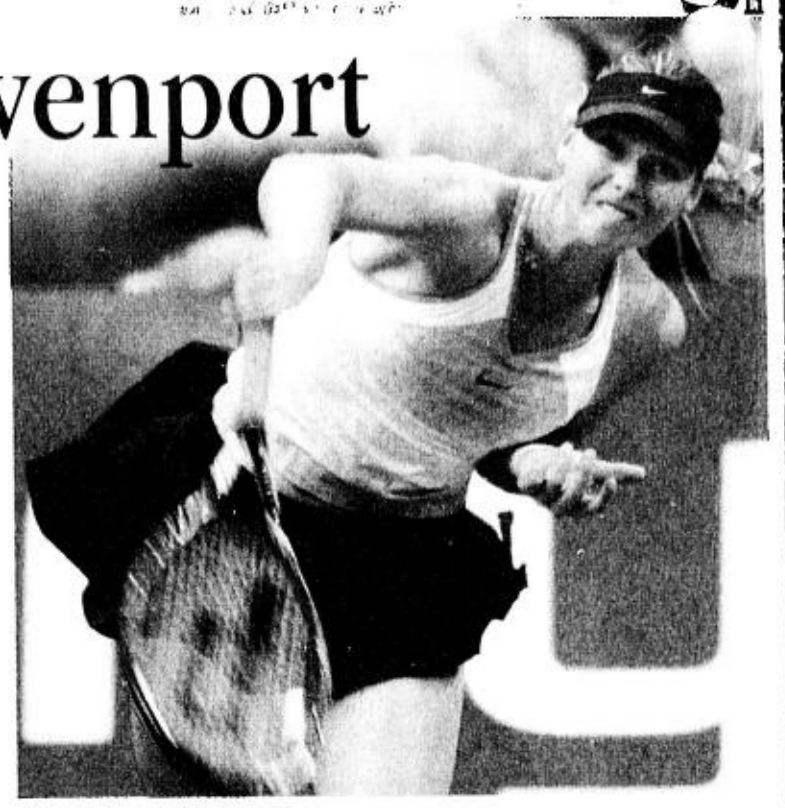
"I wasn't mad," Davenport said. "She is a little dramatic when she wins and it takes her a while to get to the net."

Sharapova has been bothered by a strained right pectoral muscle since August, and she withdrew from last week's tournament in Philadelphia because of a sprained right thumb. Beating Davenport was her first victory over a highly ranked player since July, when she defeated Nadia Petrova in the quarterfinals at Wimbledon.

"I didn't consider pulling out," she said. "I want to play really bad."

Sharapova served for the match at 5-4 in the second set. But she netted a forehand to get broken, then Davenport won the final two games to force a third set in front of an announced crowd of 6,111 at Staples Center.

Sharapova earned the only break of the third in the fifth game with a forehand winner. *AP*



**TENNIS** pin-up girl Maria Sharapova serves to Lindsay Davenport during their match at the WTA Championships on Thursday in Los Angeles. Sharapova beat Davenport in three sets. AP

# SEAG 1-day event slated

A SEND-OFF TOURnament dubbed 'Sixfifty Survivor Series' for the Philippine delegation in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games will be held in Libis today.

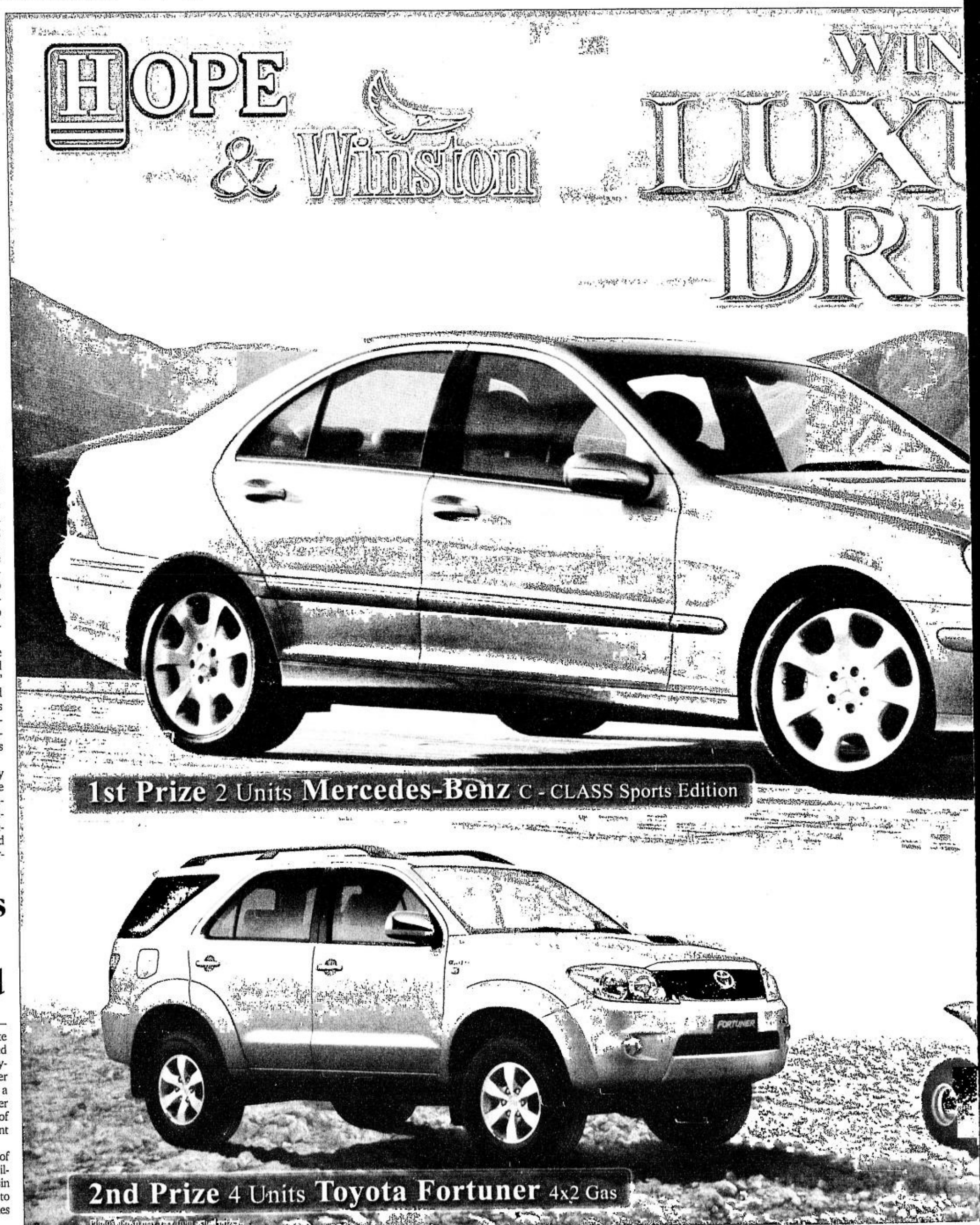
The competition is a multisports event of badminton, futsal, volleyball, wall climbing, table tennis and dodge ball with top Filipino athletes seeing action in exhibition matches.

The one-day activity is being organized by Clubsixfifty Sports Center in Libis in cooperation with the Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc).

Also attending the affair are sports ambassadors Akiko Thompson, Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco and Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski.

Proceeds of the event will be donated to the "Lead to Gold" program of the Lead Institute of Sports Foundation in support of the development of world-class Filipino athletes.

An evening party will be held after the tournament, highlighted by the awarding ceremonies, special raffle prizes and performances by various artists.




# Rosales 7 shots off lead

MOBILE, ALABAMA—Sweden's Liselotte Neumann returned from a monthlong layoff and shot a 6-under 66 Thursday to take a one-stroke lead after the opening round of the LPGA Tournament of Champions.

Jennifer Rosales of the Philippines and Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin shot identical 73s to stay seven strokes down.

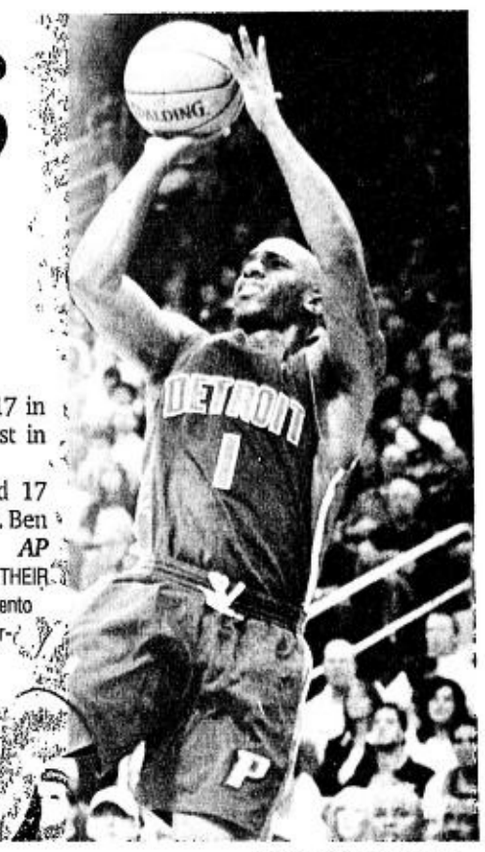
Neumann, who won the event in 1996 in Orlando, Florida, had six birdies, including four on the back nine.

"It was just a good solid round," said Neumann.

Juli Inkster and Christina Kim, teammates on the winning US Solheim Cup squad, were one stroke back after opening 67s. *AP*

Government Warning: Cigarette sr

# Wade, Heat ground Rockets; Pistons keep slate spotless



**MIAMI—DWYANE WADE SCORED 25 POINTS and Jason Williams had eight of his 13 in the final quarter Thursday as the Miami Heat rallied from a late eight-point deficit to beat the Houston Rockets, 88-84.**

Wade added eight rebounds and seven assists for Miami, which also got 13 points and nine rebounds from Alonzo Mourning and 12 points from Gary Payton.

Yao Ming had 24 points and 14 rebounds for Houston, but scored only two points in the game's final 20:04. Derek Anderson scored 20 points, Stromile Swift had 12 and Juwan Howard 11 for the Rockets, who've dropped three of four to open the season and play their next four on the road.

The win gave Heat coach Stan Van Gundy a 3-2 lead in the sibling series against his brother, the Rockets' Jeff Van Gundy. Neither brother had his full complement of superstars: The Heat are still without Shaquille O'Neal (sprained right ankle) and the Rockets didn't have Tracy McGrady (strained back muscle).

In Atlanta, Elton Brand scored 23 points and Sam Cassell added 21 as the Los Angeles Clippers beat the winless Hawks, 102-95, for its first 5-1 start in 20 years.

The Hawks, meanwhile, have lost their first five games for the first time since the 2000-01 season, when they started 0-7.

The Clippers also beat the Hawks 92-77 Saturday in Los Angeles and have six straight wins in the series.

Corey Maggette added 17 points in only 25 minutes for the Clippers.

In Phoenix, Richard Hamilton scored 11 points in the final 7 1/2 minutes and Chauncey Billups sank a game-clinching 3-pointer with 16 seconds to go as the Detroit Pistons clipped the Suns, 111-104, to stay unbeaten.

Billups had 27 points and 11 assists for the Pistons, the league's lone team without a loss. At 5-0, they are off to their best start since they won their first eight en route to the NBA title in 1988-89.

The Suns, 0-3 at home, led by 11 with 2:38 to go in the third quarter and eight to start the fourth, blowing a late lead at home for the second time this season. They were up by 17 in their home opener against Dallas but lost in double overtime.

Hamilton and Tayshaun Prince scored 17 apiece and Rasheed Wallace 16 for Detroit. Ben Wallace had 15 points and 16 rebounds. *AP*

**NBA on TV:** THE DENVER NUGGETS GUN FOR THEIR first winning streak when they take on the Sacramento Kings today. Solar Sports will telecast the action at the Arco Arena in Sacramento starting 11 a.m. Meanwhile, a high-scoring duel is expected today as Kobe Bryant and the LA Lakers visit Allen Iverson and the Philadelphia 76ers in the NBA today at 9 a.m. live and exclusive on ESPN. Bryant and Iverson are currently ranked first and second, respectively, in scoring this campaign.

**BILLUPS:** Big triple
REUTERS

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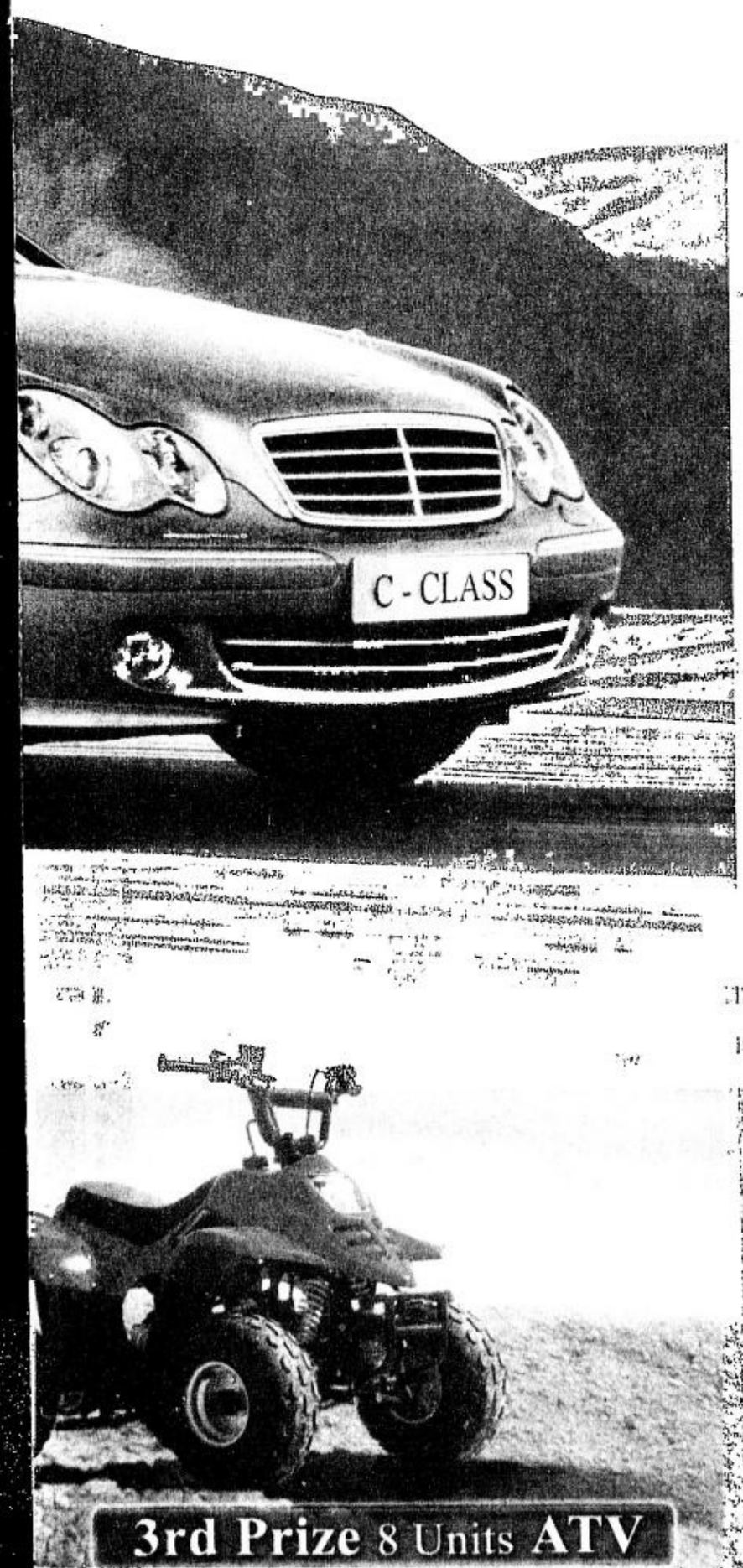




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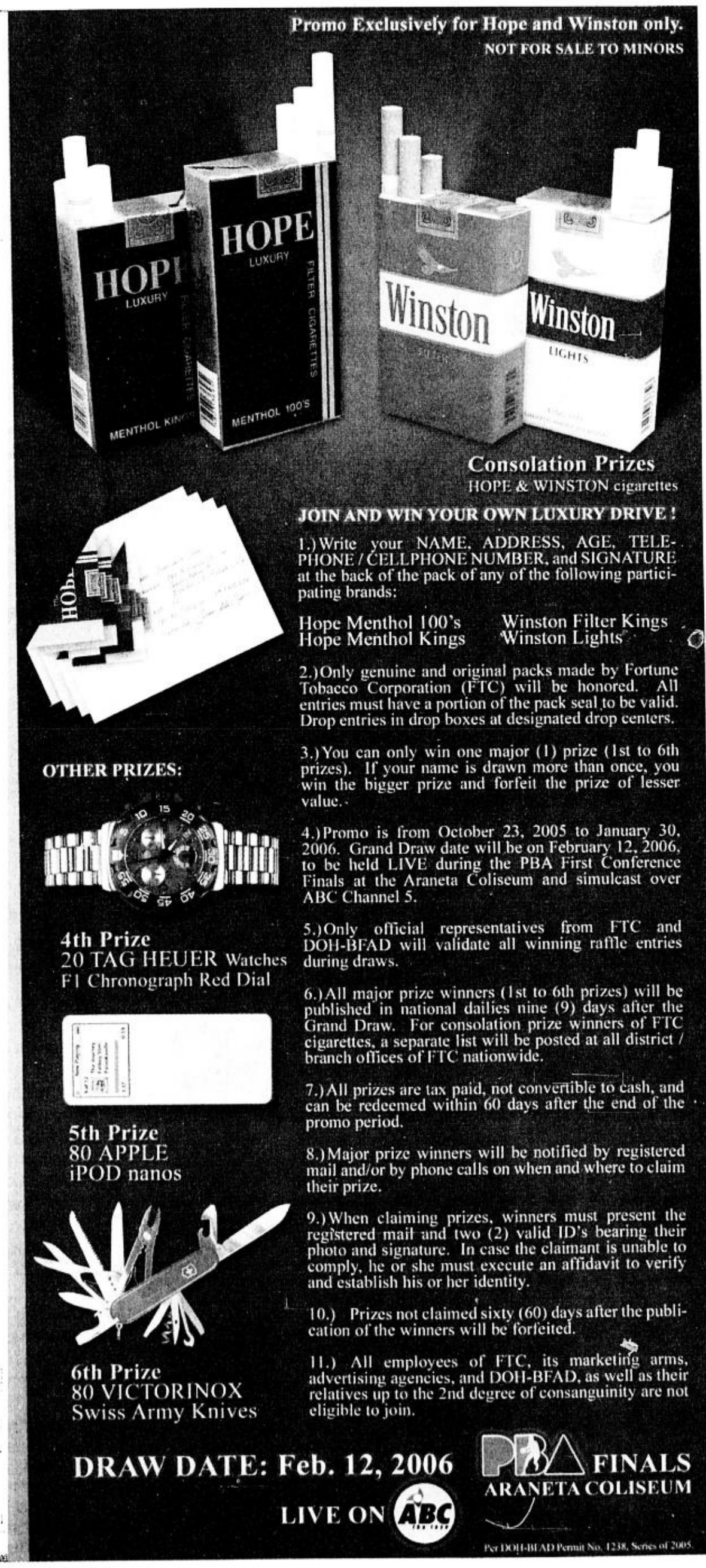


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5.) Only official representatives from FTC and DOH-BFAD will validate all winning raffle entries during draws.

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8.) Major prize winners will be notified by registered mail and/or by phone calls on when and where to claim their prize.

9.) When claiming prizes, winners must present the registered mail and two (2) valid ID's bearing their photo and signature. In case the claimant is unable to comply, he or she must execute an affidavit to verify and establish his or her identity.

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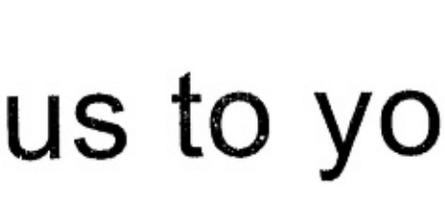

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# 'Wet' Tiger trails by 2

SHANGHAI, CHINA—Woods hit a 5-wood into the water but saved par on his last hole Friday for a 3-under 69, leaving him two shots back after two rounds at the HSBC Champions tournament.

Nick Dougherty had a 4-under-par 68 and David Howell shot a bogey-free round with five birdies for a 67 to head into the weekend as the co-leaders at 12 under.

Woods and Australia's Nick O'Hern shared third at 10 under, ahead of a group of five at 9 under.

Woods, who bogeyed his last hole Thursday after hitting his tee shot into a bunker and giving up a share of the first-round lead, made a charge on the back nine. He had three consecutive birdies from the 13th to the 15th to get to 11-under before he bogeyed the 16th, hitting a chip into a greenside bunker and then two-putting.

He hit a risky second shot into a lake on the right side of the 538-yard, par-5 18th at Sheshan International Golf Club. After taking a drop, Woods saved par with a long, curling putt that just dribbled into the cup to finish the round.

"I didn't feel comfortable with my club selection at the 18th and dumped it in the water," Woods said. "I made a good save. To have finished 2 over for the last three holes would have left a really bad taste in the mouth."

Dougherty, who was in a three-way tie with Peter O'Malley and Paul Lawrie for the overnight lead at 8 under, finished with a 68 in the second round. He also saved par on his last hole —No. 9—holing a 20-foot putt from the edge of the green.

Lawrie, the 1999 British Open winner, shot a 75 in the second round, dropping back to 5 under.

No. 2-ranked Vijay Singh was a stroke behind Woods at 8 under, along with US Open champion Michael Campbell, KJ Choi, Thomas Bjornand O'Malley. *AP*

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1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

4 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
1:25 4:10 6:55 9:40

5 FLIGHTPLAN
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6 WAITING
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7 DOMINO
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8 CRY_WOLF
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9 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
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10 ISPIRITISTA
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# Arevalo trounces Korean, barges into Holcim semis

By Marc Anthony Reyes

**FILIPINO WILD CARD ENTRY CZARINA Mae Arevalo recovered from a 5-1 deficit in the third set to fashion out a 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 triumph over Korean No. 7 Kim Hae-sung yesterday and glide into the semifinals of the Holcim ITF women's circuit at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.**

The 20-year-old Arevalo, the country's top bet in the coming Southeast Asian Games, displayed the grit and maturity she has been known for to repulse the Korean and finish the match in two hours and 25 minutes.

It was the first time Arevalo made it to the semis of the $10,000 tournament in the past six years. And it showed in the way she forced her shots in the second and third sets.

"I was trying to score as fast as I could to finish the match but in the process committed many errors," said Arevalo, who clawed back by winning four straight games from the baseline and eventually tiring her rival out.

Arevalo, who trained for five months in India for the SEA Games slated Nov. 27 to Dec. 5, will next take on Taiwan's Chen Yi, the fifth seed and ranked 826 in the world.

I'm ready for her (Chen) I know that she has a powerful serve," added Arevalo, the one-time PCA Open champion.

Chen is a member of Korea's Fed Cup team. She advanced to the semis with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Fil-American Denise Dy.

"I played very well today and my serve is 100 percent," said the 5-foot-9 Chen who celebrates her 19th birthday today. "But it was nevertheless a tough match because Dy has a good serve and volley game."

One of the SEAG bets, Dy was nursing a sprained left hand she hurt during the ITF Juniors last month in Pasig City. Despite the injury, the 17-year-old Dy won the first leg singles title and two doubles championships.

In other matches, top seed Lyoo-Suh Hee-sun of Korea worked past Israeli Efrat Zlotikamin, 1-6, 6-4, 6-4, to set up a semis encounter with Chan Wing-Yau of Hong Kong. Chan scored a 6-3, 6-0 upset over third seed Rebecca Fong of Britain.

Top seeds Pichittra Thongdach and Fong routed Maureen Diaz and Julianna Gates of the United States to also make the doubles semis with a 6-1, 6-4 win.

HEE Sun Lyoo-Suh of Korea returns a forehand in yesterday quarterfinal of the Holcim ITF Women's Circuit. RYAN LIM

TIERRO: Too focused to surrender.

# Tierro, Arcilla stay on course for title clash

By Dennis U. Eroa
*Inquirer Libre sports editor*

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—TOP SEED Patrick John Tierro showed no respect for veteran Jesse Lapore, 6-0, 6-0, while arch rival Johnny Arcilla stayed on course for a projected title showdown by stopping Yannick Guba, 6-2, 6-3, to enter the semifinals of the Subic Bay Invitationals Thursday night here.

Tierro, the country's number one player, took only 40 minutes to demolish Lapore, who at 44 is still ranked eighth nationally. Tierro also did not surrender a game in the quarterfinals against youthful Leyan Moncera Wednesday night in this week-long event featuring the country's top 16 male netters.

"This is the first time that someone made me feel that my tennis career is over," said Lapore. "PJ just knocked me out cold the moment I stepped on the court. PJ is world-class material."

Tierro's semifinals foe in this tournament sponsored by Cebuana Lhuillier and Le Soleil Boracay Hotel and supported by Philta, SBMA and Dunlop-Slazenger, is No. 4 seed Chiemil Mantua, who stopped the winning run of local bet Nico Riego de Dios, 6-4, 6-4.

Arcilla, who lost to Tierro in the Olivarez Cup men's singles final, tackles fellow Davis Cupper and third seed Rolando Ruel, who whipped sixth seed Elbert Anasta, 6-3, 6-3.

Tierro and Arcilla are using this event as preparations for the coming SEA Games. The other members of the national team are Fil-Am standouts Cecil Mamiit and Eric Taino.

RP team team manager Jean Henri Lhuillier said: "I am glad to see PJ's development gaining momentum and it's good the bar is being raised to another level."

Lhuillier has teamed up with Beey-ong Sison to train and develop future international stars at the Subic Bay International Tennis Center.

Tierro said he wasn't conscious of blanking Lapore. "I wasn't even looking at the scoreboard. I was just focusing on my routine and execution knowing that Jesse can comeback at you anytime," said the 6-foot-1 Tierro, a veteran of the ITF Indonesian Satellite Masters.

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# SPORTS

# 2nd place easy for RP in SEAG–Keon

By Musong R. Castillo

THE PHILIPPINES WILL WIND UP second overall at the least in the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games, according to defunct Project: Gintong Alay director Michael Keon.

Speaking during yesterday's Scoop sa Kamayan in Padre Faura, Keon boldly predicted that the Philippines will double its 49 gold medal haul in Vietnam two years ago and can even win the overall title.

"Our athletes are better prepared and trained compared two years ago," Keon, the national training director, said.

Keon even went on to say that the Philippines can win a maximum of 128 gold medals, good enough for a shot at the overall title, which the country missed by two gold medals the last time it hosted the Games 14 years ago.

The Philippine performance of 91 gold medals in 1991 goes down as its best-ever in the Games and a repeat of that haul will not be enough to win the overall championship this time.

KEON

The overseas training that the athletes took part in the last eight months could tilt the balance of power in the region.

"It (foreign exposure and training) tipped the balance in our favor," said Keon. It will be (a) much better (result) this time."

The hometown advantage has worked for whichever country has hosted the Games for the last three editions.

"I studied the last three SEA Games," Keon said. "Hometown advantage will have a significance and the Philippines has a fighting chance.

"I have been reviewing, studying our athletes' performance in training and competition over and over again the past 2 1/2 months and I honestly believe that they can deliver the goods," added Keon, appointed to the director's post eight months ago.

Keon predicted a three-cornered fight for the overall championship, with Thailand still there to contend and Vietnam out to prove that its conquest in 2003 in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh cities was not a fluke.

The Vietnamese, however, will come into these Games already the losers of 22 gold medals they won in such events as pin swimming and shuttlecock, events familiar only to them and alien to some of the SEA countries.

Keon expects the Philippines to win the bulk of its gold medals in wushu, athletics, fencing, wrestling, karatedo, taekwondo and boxing.

## Council OKs no caging

By Jasmine W. Payo

BANGKOK—A UNITED STAND.

That, in the end, was what members of the Southeast Asian Games Federation Council (SEAGFC) agreed to put up after Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco formally announced the scrapping of the basketball tournament in the 23rd edition of the biennial meet.

"The Council made a solid stand not because of threats of sanction from the international federation of basketball but because a specific rule of the SEAGFC prevents the Philippines from staging basketball," said Cojuangco after the session.

It was not an easy decision to back, though.

Malaysia supported the Philippines at the pain of losing a substantial sponsorship from oil firm giant Petronas. And Thailand had initially wanted to push through with the Games if only for the time and effort the country had already put into preparing a competitive basketball team.

"In spite of that, for the sake of unity within the federation, they accepted the situation," said Cojuangco. "We will make up to them whatever problems we may have caused them."

The no-basketball SEAG cropped up after the Philippines was suspended by the international basketball federation (Fiba) because of the controversy shadowing the sport's national federation. The POC had earlier suspended the BAP, therefore leaving the country with no national association for the sport.

The POC flirted with the idea of hosting an invitational, but the Fiba warned the Philippines and other countries of possible sanctions if it participated in the special tournament.

The Vietnam delegation said the Fiba sent the wrong signals to the SEA Games countries when it made that veiled threat. Cojuangco, for his part, clarified that the decision not to hold basketball had nothing to do with the Fiba's warning.

"The Council made a solid stand not be-

COUNCIL/ A27


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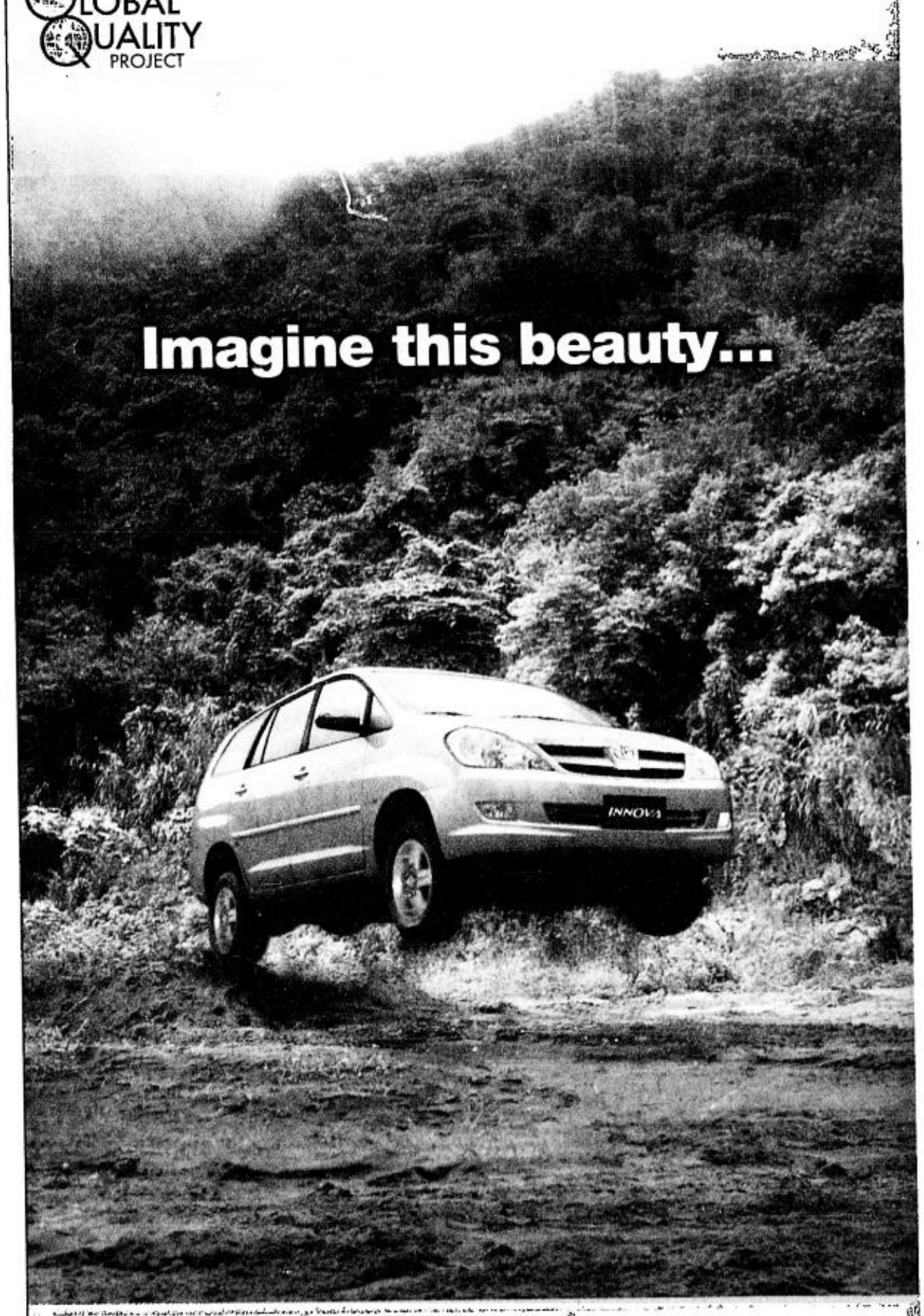


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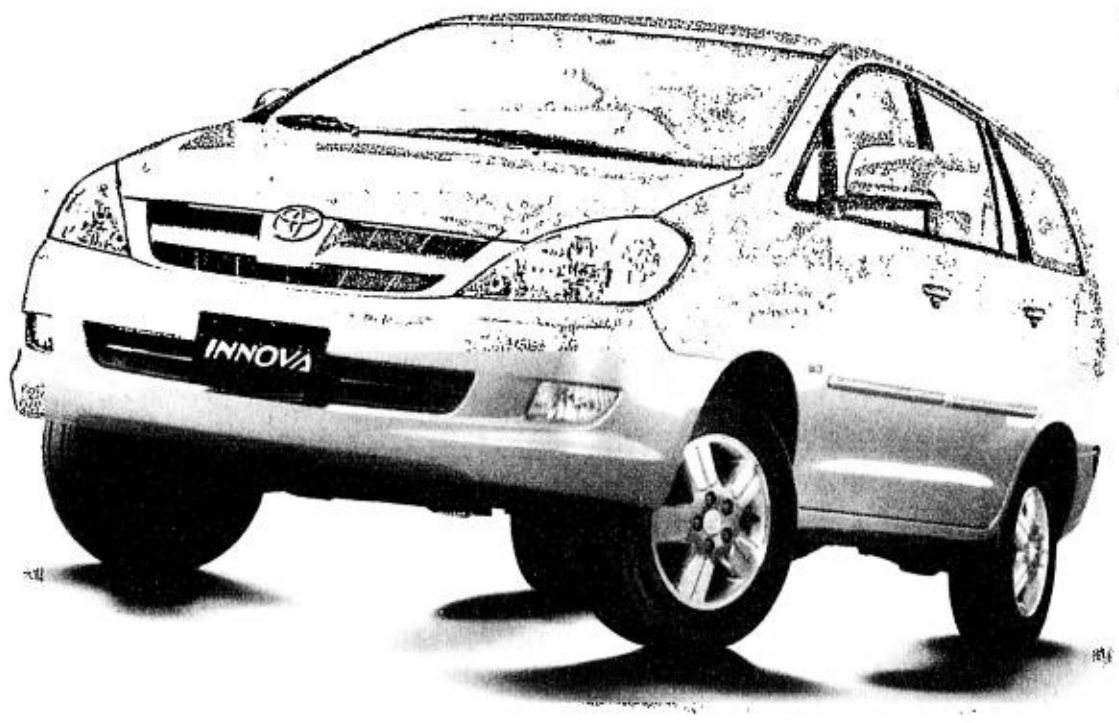


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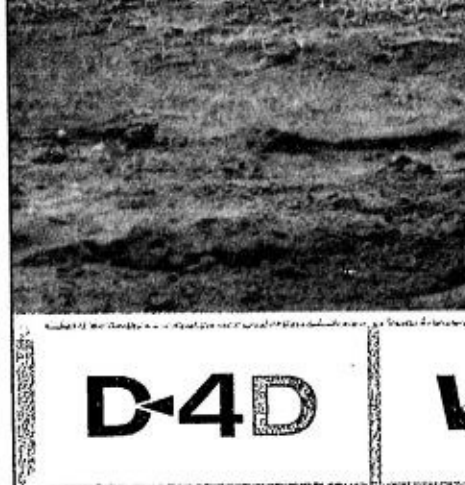


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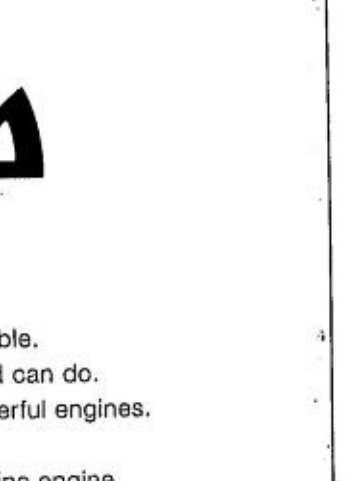

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SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre
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LEUNG. Daniel Radcliffe's romantic interest in "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire."

# Gifted young actresses shine in plum roles

PARKER. Sexy star comes into her own in "Ilusyon."

By Nestor U. Torre

THIS MONTH'S MOST PROMISING SHOW biz comers are led by Katie Leung, the pretty, talented and very lucky first-time actress who bagged the plum role of Cho Chang in "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire."

The latest "Harry Potter" film sees its adolescent hero into his teenage years, and it turns out that the first girl he develops a crush for is his fellow Hogwarts student, Cho.

This key development makes the role truly a prize catch for any young actress. Of course, the fact that the character is Chinese limited the casting call for Cho to Asian talents—but, over 5,000 hopefuls still showed up at the open-call auditions!

## Open casting call

At first, Katie wasn't planning on auditioning for the role, because she'd never acted before. But, her parents persuaded her to attend the open casting call, and the young Chinese-Scottish charmer bowled the auditioners over with her gamin look and natural acting talent.

Katie takes full advantage of the opportunity the film gives her to show what she can do as an actress. In their scenes together, Harry's awkward struggle to muster the courage to ask Cho to the school's Yule Ball dance has decidedly bittersweet results.

As 18-year-old Katie puts it, "Cho is very fond of Harry, so she doesn't want to hurt his feelings—but, she's already said yes to another boy, Cedric Diggory."—How will Harry's magical powers get him out of this potentially traumatizing fix?

## Digital feature

On the local film front, the brightest comer this month is Jaycee Parker, the female lead of "Ilusyon," the digital feature that got the prized top grade of "A" from the Cinema Evaluation Board, and is now being shown in selected mainstream theaters.

Jaycee used to be regarded as "just" a sexy starlet, but "Ilusyon" has enabled her to come into her own as a fine actress. Guided by directors Paolo Villaluna and Ellen Ramos, Jaycee comes up with a captivating and even memorable portrayal that should get her more good roles in the future.

In "Ilusyon," she plays an artists' model who gets involved with a dissembling young man who pretends to be painting her nude portrait, but is really just smitten with her.

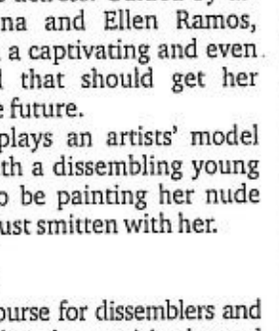
## Less than perfect

That's par for the course for dissemblers and their clueless victims, but the movie's plot and theme thicken when Jaycee's character develops an illness that mars her beauty. Will the young man still adore her, now that she's less than perfect?

The movie's themes and insights are compellingly complex, but Jaycee isn't swamped by them, and continues to hold viewers' interest and fascination even when her character's physical appeal has been compromised. That isn't easy to pull off, so Jaycee should be right proud of her achievement.

# Love dissected

By Ronald G. Mangubat



WILSON. Rare jewel of the theater.

LOVE, THE MOST overused word in the world today, is examined and dissected anew in the New Voice Company's staging of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Aspects of Love," now showing (until Dec. 3) at the Republic of Malate. But, the dissection goes beyond the pleasures and pains of falling in love.

## Intricate web

In this story, an intricate web continues to branch out into other permutations. Oftentimes, even the most cautious lovers get surprised at the way their own stories turn out.

Such is the case with this triangle of lovers. Set in the '50s, the musical chronicles the life of French actress Rose Vibert (played by Monique Wilson) who finds herself in a whirlwind

LOVE/ A2-2

# Liz, Natalie and their stage mothers

**By Behn Cervantes**

ELIZABETH TAYLOR'S MOM WAS a stage mother. However, Liz credits her for her phenomenal success. At age three, the young girl danced before England's King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. (She was born in the UK.)

At age 10, the young girl's striking beauty caught US filmmakers' attention. She made her debut in "There's One Born Every Minute" in 1942. The following year, MGM signed her to a long-term contract that lasted until the '60s. The actress became one of the greatest stars of all time—she was paid an unprecedented $1 million for "Cleopatra" in 1963!

**TAYLOR. Her mom stood by her—through thick and thin!**

## Controversial

Elizabeth's glamorous but controversial life is well-publicized, including her battles with the bulge. She married eight times and had numerous love affairs. However, with her mom's fine guidance, Liz learned to handle her career with great aplomb. Therefore, even as she "played" with abandon, she remained a respected professional, who garnered two Academy Awards (for "Butterfield Eight" and "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?").

Her mother stood by her through thick and thin—she even arranged discreet trysts between her and Richard Burton at the height of their affair during the shooting of "Cleopatra."

Mrs. Taylor remained supportive of her daughter through her many stormy marriages and tragic experiences. She maintained good relations with gossip doyennes, Louella Parsons and Hedda Hopper, so despite a checkered personal life, Liz received fine press from the duo.

It was Elizabeth's doting mother who concocted the title, "The Most Beautiful Girl in the World," for her 17-year-old daughter—since Hedy Lamarr had already been dubbed "The Most Beautiful Woman in the World."

Liz's mom then convinced Louella to dub the violet-eyed beauty "The Most Beautiful Girl in the World." (But, in 1956, Ava Gardner topped Hedy and Liz when she was tagged "The Most Beautiful Animal in the World"!)

## Shocked producer

Mother and daughter maintained a loving relationship. In fact, it is said that when movie mogul Louis B. Mayer verbally abused Mrs. Taylor, the very young Elizabeth told the shocked producer not to talk to her mother in that manner. "Never ever!," the angry child declared.

On the other hand, the young Natasha Gurdin—known to the world as Natalie Wood—could never shake off her immigrant mother's hold on her. A Russian ballet dancer of French extraction, Natalie's extremely pushy mother made the actress take dance lessons at an exceedingly early age.

As a child actress, Natalie appeared in "Miracle on 34th Street" and "Our Very Own." However, it was when she was a teenager that she attained stardom in the James Dean vehicle, "Rebel Without a Cause."

Her mother paid little attention to the actress' many personal problems, including her failed marriage to Robert Wagner. Her television biography specified traumatic experiences like rape—by an unnamed male actor—as well as a seduction, and subsequent betrayal by director Nicholas Ray.

## Footsteps

Mrs. Gurdin was ecstatic when Natalie became a major star, with successes like "Splendor in the Grass," "West Side Story" and "Marjorie Morningstar."

She was expected to follow the footsteps of her idol, Elizabeth Taylor, when personal problems—including her divorce from Wagner, and her stormy affair with Warren Beatty and other lovers—took a toll on her career.

Natalie drowned in a yachting accident in 1981. Her inconsolable mother experienced the tragedy of knowing that her beloved daughter had died exactly as a gypsy fortune teller predicted she would!

# Love dissected

From page A2-1

romance with a young soldier, Alex Dillingham (Jake Macapagal) and later gets attracted to Alex's uncle, George (Leo Rialp). When Rose abandons Alex and marries George, she discovers a strong love for and affinity to both men.

In the meantime, Rose openly engages in romantic liaisons with George's lover, Giuletta Trapani (Roselyn Perez), an Italian sculptress, and the young and dashing Hugo (Topper Fabregas). Despite the passage of years, however, the passion between Rose, and Alex never dies.

## Tragic and lonely note

In fact, Alex even comes to live with Rose and George, and eventually falls in love with their daughter, Jenny (played as a child by Julia Abueva, and as a teenager by Nikki Ventosa). Amidst hurts, jealousy and the madness of the whole situation, the musical ends on a tragic and lonely note.

The performers are excellent singers, starting with Wilson (she also directed the play), who has become a rare jewel of the theater; Macapagal, who surprised us with his cool, refreshing voice and felt performance, and Rialp, whose transition from a sprightly middle-aged lover to a sick and jealous old man was believable.

Kudos also to Perez, who managed to cover a wide range of emotions, and Rito Asilo, who was convincing and impressive as the good-natured and amiable actor-manager, Marcel.

*The* revelation for us, however, was child performer Julia Abueva, whose clear, lilting voice and playful innocence drew cheers and applause from the audience.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VIVA

# Anak TV Seal screening process winds up with culminating trip

By Nestor U. Torre

EACH YEAR, THE Anak TV screening process winds up with a media showcase that gives print and broadcast journalists a chance to see how the nationwide screenings for the prized citations of child-friendly shows unreel.

This year's culminating trip is happening this weekend, with the help of Negros Navigation and the office of the Mayor of Bacolod City. Some media people sailed yesterday on the MS/St. Joseph the Worker. They are currently in Bacolod City and will be back in Manila tomorrow.

### Young viewers' welfare

During the trip, they are observing how Anak TV screenings are conducted, and learning what people from all walks of life think about television, particularly in relation to young viewers' welfare.

Onboard the Negros Navigation vessel, they are interviewing MTRCB Chair Consoliza Laguardia, and interfacing with Southeast Asian Foundation officials, led by president Edgardo Roces, and trustee Sulficio Tagud Jr.

In Bacolod, they are taking a city tour, visiting scenic sites, and sampling the city's delicacies. More pertinently, they will attend a media conference hosted by Mayor Evelio Leonardia and the city's councilors. At the event, the mayor will make an official statement about television as it affects Bacolod children.

### Effectivity

We have joined a similar "educational trip" in the past, and can vouch for its effectivity in helping media people better appreciate the importance of encouraging the production and viewership of TV shows that have a positive effect on young people.

Even better, we saw for ourselves that many parents, educators and youths in the provinces are very concerned about irresponsible and exploitative TV programs, because they realize the persuasive power of television over young viewers' sensibilities.

At the Anak TV screenings, they launched into extensive discussions of the sample programs they viewed, and detailed how they impacted on children.

### Not perfect

To be sure, the Anak TV process isn't perfect. Last year, for instance, a few of the programs cited left something to be desired (at least as far as this writer was concerned).

But the process generally works, and goes a long way in involving the viewing public in vetting programs that young viewers get to see. This is "broadcast democracy" at work, and should definitely be encouraged.

### Citations

So, our hopes are high that the 2005 Anak TV Seal citations will encourage the production of more responsible TV programs, and that more media people will give SEAFCTV's signature project the support it deserves.

SEAFCTV president Edgardo Roces.

# Yoko Ono pays tribute to John in 'Lennon' musical

NEW YORK—IT WAS NOT LONG AFTER SHE met John Lennon that Yoko Ono realized she had become one of the most hated women on the planet.

Sitting in her apartment in the Dakota, Ono takes herself back four decades to an art party in London, where one of her sculptures was on display.

"We opened the door, came in, and they all looked at us, and they all turned their backs," she says. When Lennon went to get coffee, the woman at the counter said, "'Get it yourself, it's there.'"

### Sculpture

He did, and guided Ono to a narrow staircase away from the crowd, where they sat and watched revelers nearly step on her sculpture.

"I'll never forget that day, because that was when I realized, 'What is going on?,'" she says. "It didn't really dawn on me that, 'Oh, people are against us!'"

Today, Ono's name can still cause Beatles fans to scowl. But, here she is, a widow in black, carefully tending to Lennon's legacy. Now 72, her age barely softening the sharp angles of her face, she takes solace from her husband's words that day in London.

"John said, 'When the going gets bad, we just keep our chins up,'" she says.

Lennon would have been 64 now—and Ono is still sending him a treat, this time in the form of the Broadway musical, "Lennon," the story of his life told through his words and music.

Seeing Lennon's life on stage brings back raw emotions for Ono.

"It's a very strange thing," she says. "I always watch it—I have seen it several times already, but each time, I still cry. It's hard for me to think that 25 years have passed.

Promoting Lennon's work helps her feel connected to him, as does staying in the landmark apartment building near Central Park, just an elevator ride away from where he was gunned down on Dec. 8, 1980.

JOHN and Yoko are immortalized in a new stage production.

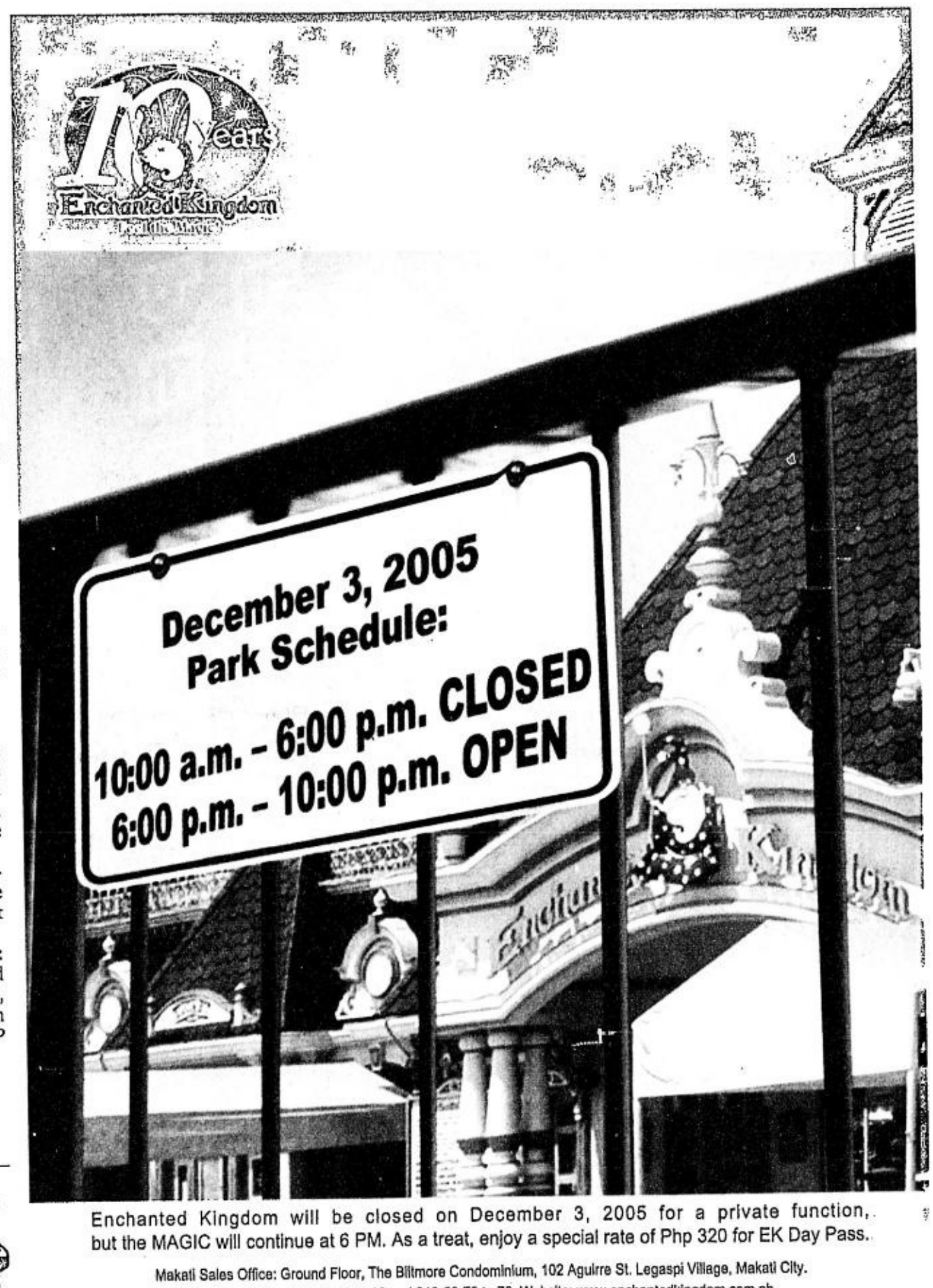
The piano he used to play "Imagine" sits in the corner of the famous white room, topped with family photographs. "In a way, John's spirit flew away from this building," Ono says.

### Family life

Back in the 1970s, Lennon was working on his own musical, which he hoped would land on Broadway. It included much of the ground covered in "Lennon"—his meeting with Ono, bed-ins and family life—but, it "would have been a very *avant-garde* affair," Ono remarks.

When writer-director Don Scardino approached Ono with the idea for "Lennon," she was skeptical. "I said, 'Musical? Isn't that a bit cheesy?,'" she says with a laugh.

But, she was intrigued by a twist in the story: Each of the nine cast members dons round spectacles to portray Lennon—young and old, male and female, black and white. It was an idea she thought Lennon would have loved. *AP*

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# Cleansing the mind

**LOTUS POND**

*R. Valencia and S. Bismark*

I ONCE HAD AN OUTSPOKEN GUEST whose ideas were impractical, illogical and irrelevant. She turned off people with her confused and contrasting statements.

I finally told her: "Look, you have to distinguish yourself from your mind—redirect your thoughts, filter out the bad ideas from the good ones. Let discipline and wisdom prevail. I want to talk to you about the spirit soul, *not* about your ever-changing mind!"

As a gift, I gave her this poem to help her deal with her confused mind:

### My Friend or My Enemy?

*My mind goes here and there,*
*"Where will I go? What will I wear?"*
*It is really such a bother*
*Like a naughty little brother*
*Like a jumping grasshopper*
*Going from one trip to another!*

*Like a monkey, it swings from tree to tree*
*Or, it buzzes at me like a bee*
*I can never work or sleep in peace*
*I say to it, "Mind, keep quiet, please!"*
*My mind is my greatest enemy*
*If I let it go, it drives me to insanity.*

*We can't stop the mind from flowing*
*With ideas that are coming and going*
*So, simply direct it towards the highest end*
*Engage it in the service of our Supreme Friend.*

*When the mind is thus subjugated*
*You will no longer feel so exasperated*
*The mind will be like a helpful bull*
*Or, like a useful and effective tool.*

*A simple way to achieve this state*
*Is to take God's Names and meditate*
*The Holy Names have the power to purify*
*To sanctify as well as to satisfy.*

*So, your mind can be your friend or enemy*
*You can choose between true peace or insanity.*

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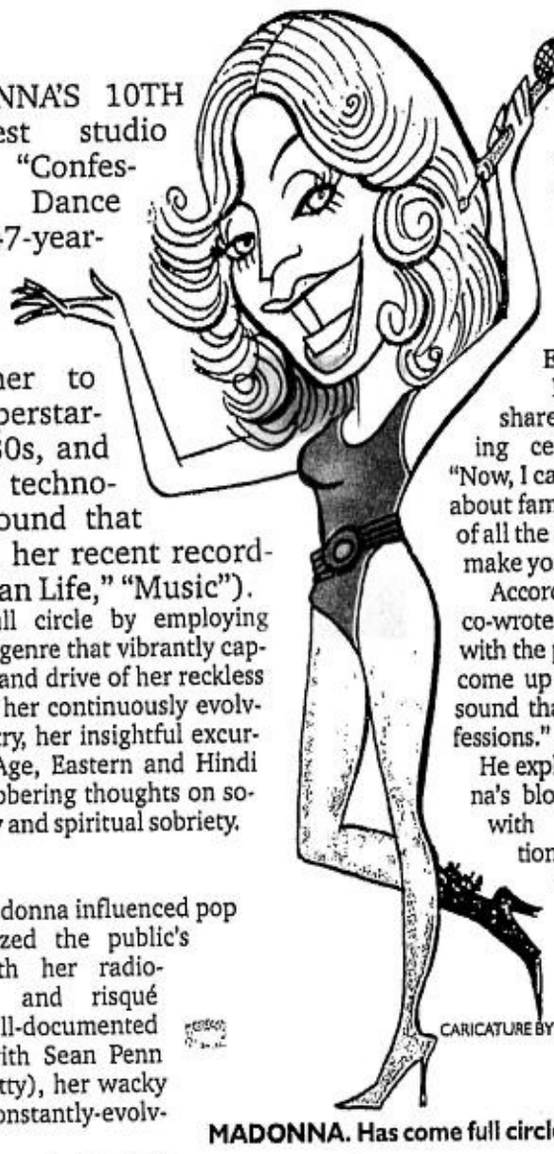
# SATURDAY Special

## Madonna goes back to dance roots in 'Confessions'

By Rito P. Asilo



CARICATURE BY STEPH BRAVO

**MADONNA. Has come full circle.**

IN MADONNA'S 10TH and latest studio recording, "Confessions on a Dance Floor," the 47-year-old diva revisits the disco beat that catapulted her to pop music superstardom in the '80s, and gives it the techno-electronica sound that characterized her recent recordings ("American Life," "Music").

She comes full circle by employing dance music, the genre that vibrantly captured the energy and drive of her reckless youth, to outline her continuously evolving musical artistry, her insightful excursions into New Age, Eastern and Hindi music, and her sobering thoughts on social responsibility and spiritual sobriety.

### Pop culture

In the '80s, Madonna influenced pop culture and seized the public's imagination with her radio-friendly music and risqué videos, her well-documented relationships (with Sean Penn and Warren Beatty), her wacky antics, and her constantly-evolving look.

This time around, she just wants everybody to have fun: "I want people to jump out of their seats! 'Confessions' is about having a good time straight through and non-stop." And that is precisely what her latest album delivers: 12 songs of boundless energy on the dance floor!

From the tick-tocking opening sound of a clock before the music builds up into Daft Punk-like thumping grooves in "Hung Up," the scorching beats of "Sorry," "Let It Will Be," "Forbidden Love," "How High" and "Jump," to the Eastern music-inspired "Isaac," and the compilation's sumptuous last song, "Like It or Not," there's no letup in the energy!

Nevertheless, you'll be disappointed if you like ballads because there's none of that here. However, that shouldn't stop you from enjoying the vast pleasures the album offers.

### Ample thoughts

But, the aural gratification derived from "Confessions" doesn't rest solely on its infectious groove. Madonna, now more mature and introspective, has ample thoughts to share about life, love, celebrity, society and mortality:

In "How High," she contemplates the price of success: "It's funny I spent my whole life wanting to be talked about . . . It's funny, when everybody mentions my name, they're not very nice. Was it all worth it? Did I earn it? Nobody's perfect, I guess I deserved it." Well, she must have been talking about the "Like a Prayer" video debacle, her controversial book, "Sex," and her disastrous flirtations with acting ("Swept Away," "Body of Evidence").

In "Let It Will Be," she shares her intimations of fading celebrity and mortality: "Now, I can tell you about success, about fame, about the rise and fall of all the stars in the sky. Doesn't it make you smile?"

According to Stuart Price, who co-wrote most of the 12 tracks with the pop diva, it wasn't hard to come up with the unencumbered sound that they wanted for "Confessions."

He explains, "Dance is in Madonna's blood. We wrote the songs with no preconceived notions—the music in the album comes straight from the gut: It's not overly edited, and is very spontaneous. As we sat in my little studio, the songs just flowed quickly! She has a dance halo over her head." And it shows.

### Downside

The "spontaneous" process has a downside, however: While the songs guarantee a smashing time on the dance floor, the disc's melodies tend to be repetitive, particularly in the first half of the track listing—but, the musicality gets better as the album gets to its final tunes.

Unfortunately, it's hard to think about Madonna's provocative musings when you're on the dance floor trying to shake your worries away!

While "Confessions on the Dance Floor" is not as musically accomplished as "Ray of Light" or "American Life," it is nevertheless a welcome addition to the pop icon's repertoire of innovative dance music.

### Domestic life

It is interesting to see how a happy domestic life and a stable career have sobered the erstwhile Queen of Reinvention. In the '80s, Madonna wrote lyrics that shocked even the most liberal music enthusiasts.

In her latest album, the rebellious streak is still there, but as she demonstrates in "I Love New York," she has clearly mellowed: "If you don't like my attitude, you can just 'f' off!" —Is she getting soft, or *what?*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Southeast Asia's longest running & most comprehensive building & construction event of the year, **PHILCONSTRUCT 2005** ( 15th Philippine International Construction Equipment and Building Materials Exhibition & Technology Forum), opened with a bang at the World Trade Center. The show will run from November 10 -13 and features a lot of exciting activities for the whole construction industry.

*PCA President Emilio Tumbocon, together with EEI President and Chairman of Philconstruct 2005 Samson Lazo escorts Vice-Pres. Noli de Castro around the exhibition hall.*

Gracing the opening of the event is no less than our country's housing czar, Hon. Vice Pres. Noli "Kabayan" de Castro. He was joined by other prominent government & private sector bigwigs including DPWH Usec. Bobby Rasuman, PCA President & concurrently Pres. of Makati Development Corp., Emilio Tumbocon, President of EEI Corp. and this year's Chairman of Philconstruct, Samson C. Lazo, Fil-American Hardware President and Chairman of Estilo de Vida, John Bautista and many others.

*Vice-Pres. Noli de Castro posed with incoming 2006 PCA directors during the opening ceremony of the Philconstruct 2005*

**Philconstruct 2005** boasts of being the most comprehensive showcase of the latest construction equipment and building materials ever put together. It has an indoor and outdoor display with over 536 booths representing products, machinery & services from 21 countries. "PCA's commitment to the construction sector is to create an ideal venue conducive to exploring business opportunities, innovations & solutions in terms of product, technology and expertise, hence strengthening the country's construction and real estate sector." said Emilio Tumbocon, President of PCA.

There are several activities that will be held during t he 4- day exhibit from Nov. 10 – 13, namely: *Estilo de Vida II* interschool interior design competition where the top 3 entries from a total of 66 entries submitted nationwide have been built in the show; **TECHNOFORUM 2005** ( International Equipment and IT Conference on Construction Management Technology) which will have speakers and experts discussing the latest trends, developments and policies affecting the construction industry; a ***Business Opportunities Forum*** where the country's top contractors and developers will present various business opportunities for the suppliers in the industry & lastly, a special ***fashion show*** which will feature fashionable construction outfits where the country's top models and the who's who of the industry will participate in.

*Vice-Pres. Noli de Castro takes a look at Synthetic plastic bamboo featured during Philconstruct 2005. EEI Pres. & Chairman of Philconstruct 2005 Samson Lazo (extreme right), PCA Pres. & Makati Dev't Corp. Pres. Emilio J. Tumbocon (on the right side of VP Noli de Castro) & PCA Exec. Dir. Manolito P. Madrasto looks on.*

Truly, **PHILCONSTRUCT** is the only exhibit where participants & trade visitors can meet the construction & building industry's key decision makers, business leaders & at the same time elevate the standards & serve as a catalyst for change resilient to the construction industry. "Over the last couple of years, **PHILCONSTRUCT** has grown tremendously in terms of exhibitor & visitor turnout. This is mainly due to PCA's commitment in elevating the standards of the exhibition to international standards. We have not left any stone unturned & worked very closely with a world-class exhibition organizer in Global-Link." said Sammy Lazo, PCA 1st Vice President and Exhibit Chairman.

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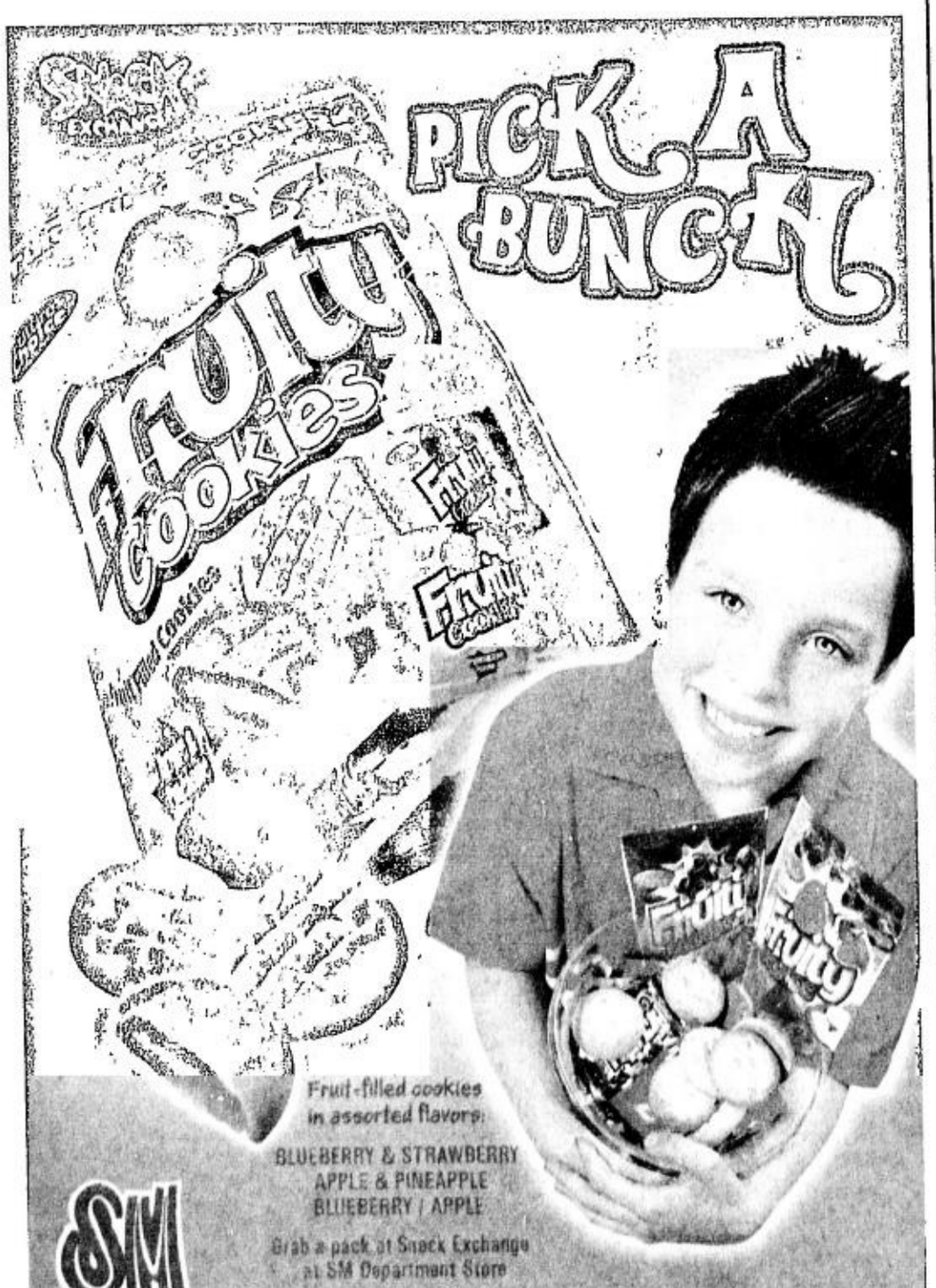

# Join the Club? Not just yet

By Noelani Torre

THE SUCCESS OF NEO-ROCKERS LIKE Sugarfree has spawned more than just hit singles—it's also given birth to a plethora of new bands, all seemingly eager to jump on the sensitive rock bandwagon. One group that sound like they want to be the genre's next big thing is a band with the—you have to admit—quite apropos name of Join the Club.

Made up of lead vocalist and guitarist Biboy Renia, guitarist Migs Mendoza, bassist Congie Lulu, and drummer Pao Santiago, Join the Club specializes in lovelorn lyrics, driving bass lines, and an energetic showing at the drums. It's not a combination you haven't encountered before, but, in the interest of fairness, let's take a closer look at their music:

NEW band's debut album has an aurally unfinished feel.

## Morose sentiments

After only one listen to the band's debut album "Nobela" (Warner)—and a flip through the inlay—you can conclude that every song in it is about love. Lost love, scorned love, cruel love—you get the picture. Despite the songs' morose sentiments, however, in the main they sound upbeat.

A closer listen to the lyrics themselves is not recommended, though. To put it plainly, they sound like they could've been written by your 12-year-old brother. The lyrics are in Filipino and English, and though those in the former could use some editing, it's the English songs that are downright painful to listen to.

Case in point is the refrain from the song "Love Is" which goes "Love is: what's keeping me this solitaire/ Someday I wish that I can find you there/ And still/ Waiting for a brand new day/ What's keeping me from causing this pain." Pain is caused, indeed.

## Unpolished

Sound-wise, the songs have an unfinished feel. They sound unpolished, not in the edgy and intriguing mode, but in the I-don't-really-know-what-I-want-to-sound-like sense. They seem quite enthusiastic about what they're doing throughout the album, but they're hardly original and they don't even copy well.

There is little coherence to this album, belying its title—"Nobela"—which implies structure and unity. In fact, once you get to listen to all 50-odd minutes of this disc, you'll find that the title has nothing to do with the content. If there's anything at all holding this record together, it's the theme of love lost. That, and the fact that sooner or later the songs start to blend into one another, until you're left with one homogeneous mass.

## Lead vocalist

The lead vocalist is a competent enough singer, but you need more to make material like this sound better than it actually is. He just doesn't have the kind of pipes that can capture a listener's attention—and keep it from focusing on, say, the lyrics. And, for a group that fancies itself to be a rock band, Join the Club certainly doesn't make much use of its guitars. Oh they're there, but you won't find any pyrotechnic guitar-playing here.

These guys still have some musical maturing to go through. Join the club? Not just yet.

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SM CITY NORTH EDSA: 1 FLIGHTPLAN; 2 DOOM; 3 ISPIRITISTA; 4 WAITING; 5 CRY WOLF; 6 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY; 7 FOUR BROTHERS; 8 LEGEND OF ZORRO
SM CITY GIA MEGA: 1 FLIGHTPLAN; 2 FOUR BROTHERS; 3 LEGEND OF ZORRO; 4 CRY WOLF; 5 ISPIRITISTA; 6 DEUCE BIGALOW; 7 DOOM; 8 WAITING; 9 THE GHOST INSIDE; 10 DOMINO
SM CITY SOUTHMALL: 1 FLIGHTPLAN; 2 ISPIRITISTA; 3 CRY WOLF; 4 LEGEND OF ZORRO; 5 DOOM; 6 DOMINO; 7 FOUR BROHTERS; 8 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY; 9 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN; 10 WAITING
SM CITY MANILA: 1 AB- NORMAL BEAUTY; 2 FOUR BROTHERS; 3 WAITING; 4 LEGEND OF ZORRO; 5 DOMINO; 6 FLIGHTPLAN; 7 ISPIRITISTA; 8 DOOM; 9 MY SASSY GIRL; 10 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN; 11 THE GHOST INSIDE; 12 CRY WOLF
SM CITY BICUTAN: 1 FLIGHTPLAN; 2 FOUR BROTHERS; 3 ISPIRITISTA; 4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT: 1 FOUR BROTHERS; 2 FLIGHTPLAN; 3 ISPIRITISTA; 4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
SM CINEMA MASSANTAZA: 1 FLIGHTPLAN; 2 LEGEND OF ZORRO; 3 WAITING; 4 DOOM; 5 ISPIRITISTA; 6 ISPIRITISTA
SM VALENZUELA: 1 FLIGHTPLAN; 2 FOUR BROTHERS; 3 ISPIRITISTA; 4 DOMINO
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SM CITY BACOOR: 1 WAITING; 2 DOMINO; 3 FLIGHTPLAN; 4 ISPIRITISTA; 5 LEGEND OF ZORRO; 6 ISPIRITISTA; 7 THE GHOST INSIDE; 8 DOOM
SM CITY DASMARINAS: 1 LEGEND OF ZORRO; 2 RESERVED; 3 ISPIRITISTA; 4 FLIGHTPLAN
SM CITY BAGUIO: 1 LEGEND OF ZORRO; 2 TRANSPORTER 2; 3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN; 4 FLIGTHPLAN
SM CITY MARILAO: 1 FLIGHTPLAN; 2 DOOM; 3 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE; 4 ISPIRITISTA
SM CITY LUCENA: 1 FLIGHTPLAN; 2 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE; 3 DOOM; 4 ISPIRITISTA
SM CITY BATANGAS: 1 INTO THE BLUE; 2 ISPIRITISTA; 3 FLIGHTPLAN; 4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
SM CITY CEBU: 1 LEGEND OF ZORRO; 2 FLIGHTPLAN; 3 TRANSPORTER 2; 4 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL; 5 MY SASSY GIRL; 6 UNDISCOVERED; 7 ISPIRITISTA; 8 DOOM
SM CITY ILOILO: 1 LORD OF WAR; 2 RESERVED; 3 DOOM; 4 ISPIRITISTA; 5 LEGEND OF ZORRO; 6 FLIGHTPLAN; 7 RESERVED; 8 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
SM CITY DAVAO: 1 FLIGHTPLAN; 2 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE; 3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN; 4 LEGEND OF ZORRO; 5 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL; 6 DOOM
SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO: 1 FLIGHTPLAN; 2 BLADE OF THE ROSE; 3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN; 4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
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1 FLIGHTPLAN 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 MTRCB: PG-13
2 DOMINO 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 MTRCB: R-13
3 FOUR BROTHERS 1:35, 4:00, 6:25, 9:00 MTRCB: R-13
4 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 11:10, 1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10 MTRCB: GP
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2 FLIGHT PLAN 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:50, 11:00 PG-13
3 FLIGHT PLAN 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50 PG-13
4 CRY WOLF R-13

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FLIGHT PLAN PG13 1:50,4:10,6:30,8:50
FLIGHT PLAN PG13 12:15,2:35,4:55,7:15,9:35
FOUR BROTHERS R13 12:30,2:50,5:10,7:30,9:50
CRY WOLF PG3 2:00,4:00,6:00,8:00,10:00
FLIGHT PLAN PG13 1:00,3:20,5:40,8:00,10:20
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THE FOUR BROTHERS 1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00
ISPIRITISTA 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
FLIGHT PLAN 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
DEUCE BIGALOW 2 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30
THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
WAITING 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30
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1 ISPIRITISTA 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
2 FLIGHT PLAN 1:10 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:10
3 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 12:00 / 2:45 / 5:30 / 8:15
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# 'The joy of life is in learning,' says Cocoy Laurel

By Edmund L. Sicam

FANS OF COCOY LAUREL who have missed watching him perform onstage will get a chance to see him in the important role of the priest in Repertory Philippines' production of "The Man of La Mancha," which runs until Dec. 10 at Rep's Globe Theater at Onstage in Greenbelt 1, Makati City.

"I visited Bibot (Amador) when she was already very sick—and she and Baby (Barredo) told me I was going to play the priest," recalls Cocoy. "Who was I to refuse? It was Bibot who encouraged me to pursue my career in theater and brought out the best in me."

Before accepting the role, Cocoy had been concentrating on the many paintings he was commissioned to do, as well as appearing in rare concerts produced by special friends, and the hit CCP musical, "Birhen ng Caysasay."

### Film star

After appearing in some Rep productions, Cocoy became a film star, topbilling hit movies with no less than the Superstar, Nora Aunor.

But, Cocoy was undecided about pursuing a career in show business. He kept going back to his studies. He shifted from architecture to painting.

Then, his career took another unexpected turn when he auditioned for "Miss Saigon."

Eventually, he would make it to the West End production of the musical as a member of the chorus. He eventually got to play the coveted role of The Engineer, which was originally essayed by Jonathan Pryce.

A few years later, when Cocoy was already back in the Philippines, producer Cameron Mackintosh invited him to play the Engineer again during the musical's Australia run for an entire year.

### Success

Despite his success, Cocoy says he still has much to learn. Every day for him is a learning experience because, to him, "the joy of life is in learning."

"The Man of La Mancha" is being co-produced by Repertory Philippines with the Manila Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Prof. Toti Molina.

Audie Gemora alternates with Michael Williams as Don Quixote, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo is Aldonza and Robbie Guevarra is Sancho Panza. Also playing key roles are Miguel Faustmann, Niccolo Manahan, Cathy Azanza and Joy Virata.

LAUREL. Plays the priest in "The Man of La Mancha."

# Annie, Kuh perform in special concerts

STREET SMART

*Mandy Navasero*

I FIRST HEARD Annie Brazil in the early '70s. When Annie sings, she chases the blues away. She is known as the grand dame of Philippine Jazz.

Here's great news: Annie is in town to launch her 14-track CD, "Annie Brazil, Live at Merk's."

According to son, Richard Merk, her voice is a gift: "Mom was born with it." Currently, she lives in New Jersey and sings in the famous jazz joint, Greenwich.

Meanwhile, Kuh Ledesma is paying tribute to the music of George Canseco with the concert, "Paano Kita Mapasasalamatan—A Tribute to Canseco," featuring a 30-piece orchestra at the PICC Plenary Hall on Nov. 19.

### First anniversary

On the first anniversary of Canseco's passing, Kuh, Basil Valdez, Christian Bautista, Martin Nievera, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Dulce and Pilita Corrales will pay tribute to the master who was an integral part of their careers.

Canseco was the genius behind Kuh's classics like "Dito Ba?," "Paano Kita Mapasasalamatan?" and "Bulaklak."

Call Music Museum at 721-0635, or Headline Concepts at 551-7253 to 55.

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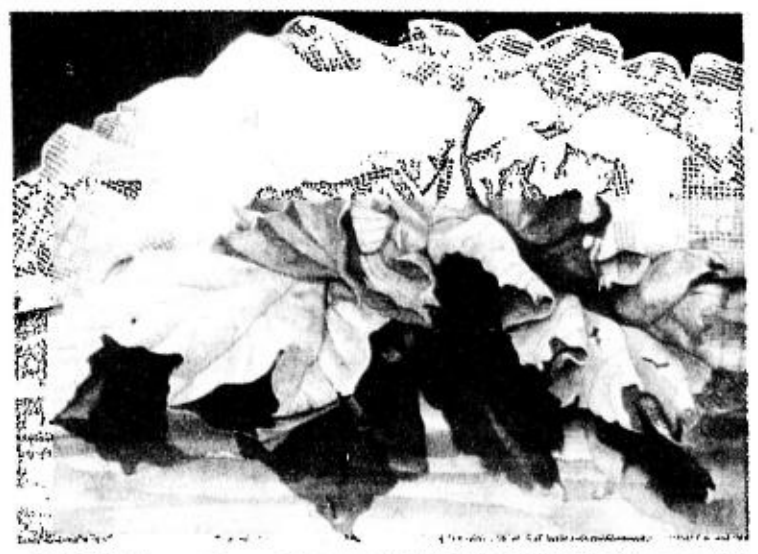


DANS is framed by three fine examples of her acclaimed "calado" series of paintings.

# New book and retrospective exhibit for Araceli Limcaco Dans

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER SHARING HER ACTING AND singing talents with the audience of Ryan Cayabyab's hit musical, "Birhen ng Caysasay," at the CCP, Araceli Limcaco Dans now focuses anew on her principal gift as one of the country's most acclaimed visual artists.

At 6 p.m. on Dec. 7, a coffee table book of her drawings and paintings will be launched at the Art Center of SM Megamall. The book's publisher is Equitable PCI Bank.

Accompanying the book launch is a retrospective exhibit of Dans' drawings and paintings. Sponsored by Galerie Y, the exhibit runs until Dec. 20.

Proceeds from the sale of the art book on Dans' oeuvre will establish a trust fund for the Faculty Development and Research programs of the UP College of Fine Arts and other schools involved in the arts.

Artists and art lovers are looking forward to Dans' book launch and exhibit because they hold her in high regard, both as artist and person.

## Pioneering art educator

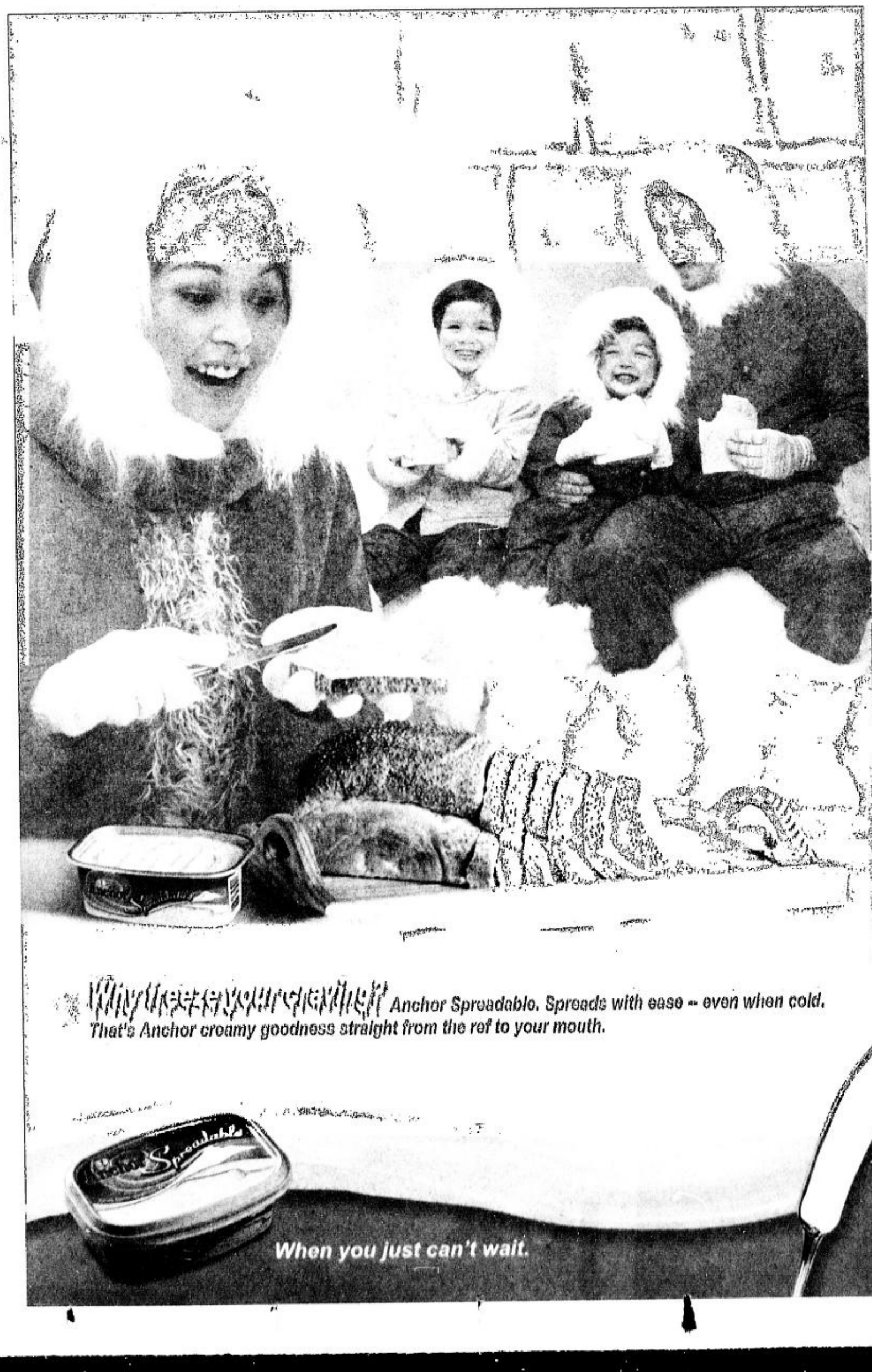
They appreciate her decades-long involvement as a pioneering art educator, especially in training child artists. These days, she is also mentoring seven of the country's most promising artists, with whom she has mounted group exhibits, to further give their careers a boost.

For her part, Dans has worked in different media and genres—painting, drawing, watercolor, caricature, book illustration, etching on copper plate, lithography, portraiture, bronze sculpture, etc. She has become renowned for her "calado" series, in oil, watercolor and acrylic.

## Exceptional talent

Affirming Dans' exceptional talent and achievement are the many awards that have been bestowed on her, including the CCP Centennial Award, Patnubay ng Sining from the City of Manila, Mariang Maya Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Visual Arts, and the Professional Award for Fine Arts from the University of the Philippines.

Also impressive is Dans' having done all this while raising 10 children with her husband, the late Jose P. Dans, Jr., an achiever in his own right. (Dans now has 29 grandchildren and three great grandchildren!) Call Galerie Y at 635-3016.




# 'Nick Takes Over Your School' heats up

AFTER THE "SLIME INVAsion" of Kostka School in Quezon City and the Immaculate Concepcion Academy in Greenhills, Nickelodeon is poised to hit seven more schools on their Foundation Day, Family Day or intramurals, as the channel's fun gambit, "Nick Takes Over Your School" heats up.

Looking forward to be slimed this November are St. Pedro Poveda College in Quezon City, San Beda College in Mendiola, De La Salle Santiago Zobel in Ayala Alabang, and Uno High School in Manila.

"Nick Takes Over Your School" is a program that promotes fun, sportsmanship, team spirit and fitness among students. Log onto www.nicksplat.com!

## 'Rico J. Puno and Friends'

As a very special Christmas fundraiser for children afflicted with cancer and other illnesses, Toti Fuentes, Rico J. Puno and Bibsy Carballo have come up with a Christmas album, "Rico J. Puno and Friends."

Singing in the album of "unexpected Xmas duets and trios" with Rico J. as banner vocalist are Ricky Davao, Jackielou Blanco, Ivy Violan, Jacqui Magno, Bodjie Pascua, Tosca Puno, Roanne Mallari, Tirso Cruz III, etc. Call 724-1762.

## Movies on TV

On HBO, Nov. 12 at 10 a.m., "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade." 2:30 p.m., "Dragonheart." 2:40 a.m., "Neil Simon's The Goodbye Girl."

On Cinemax, Nov. 12 at 8:15 a.m., "Music from Another Room." 10:15 p.m., "Fire Down Below." 3:30 a.m., "True Crime." Nov. 13 at 6:30 a.m., "Nuts." 10:45 p.m., "Bean."

## 'Exorcism of Emily Rose' sneak previews

The new horror-thriller, "The Exorcism of Emily Rose," will hold sneak previews on Nov. 14 and 15 in selected theaters. Inspired by true events, the film chronicles the trial of a Catholic priest accused of negligence resulting in the death of a teenager believed to be possessed by the devil. Stars include Jennifer Carpenter, Tom Wilkinson and Laura Linney.

## 'Noli Me Tangere'

Tanghalang Pilipino's new production of "Noli Me Tangere," the musical, opened yesterday. Its stars include Arnold Reyes as Crisostomo Ibarra, and Angela Bayani, Lena McKenzie and Princess Virtudazo, alternating as Maria Clara. Call 832-3661.

## 'St. Louis Loves dem Filipinos'

The repeat performances of the hit musical, "St. Louis Loves dem Filipinos," from Nov. 18 to 26 at the AFP Theater, topbill Miguel Castro as Bulan and Isay Alvarez as Momayon. New performers in the cast include Franco Laurel, Joaquin Valdes and Glenn Gaerlan.

Castro, a virtual neophyte essaying his first role in musical theater, considers himself fortunate to be performing with experienced stage performers. Call 721-0801.

## 'Wonderland'

Val Kilmer and Lisa Kudrow star in "Wonderland," showing on Cinemax at 9 p.m. on Nov. 13. Kilmer plays the infamous porn king Johnny Wadd in this depiction of the shocking 1981 murders that took place along Wonderland ave. in Los Angeles.

ALVAREZ and Castro play Momayon and Bulan, respectively, in hit musical at AFP Theater.

MONTAGE

# SATURDAY Special

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## Slick, smart thrillers and a powerful drama

SERVO. Finely-tuned performance in "Ilusyon."

By Rito P. Asilo

### "Flightplan"

D: Robert Schwentke
S: Jodie Foster, Peter Sarsgaard

AFTER WES CRAVEN'S "RED EYE" COMES another crowd-pleasing airplane thriller that features Jodie Foster in one of her rare cinematic outings. The actress' latest film, aside from its airtight plot and crisply edited scenes, is a triumph of acting prowess and thespic passion over narrative plausibility and directorial vision.

"Flightplan" is "Panic Room" at 37,000 feet: Jet propulsion engineer Kyle Pratt (Foster), who's based in Germany, is on her way to New York with daughter, Julia (Marlene Lawston), to bring home her husband's remains, after he is alleged to have jumped off a building.

During the flight's long haul, Kyle dozes off. When she wakes up, Julia is nowhere in sight, and nobody seems to have noticed where the little girl went, or *if* she existed at all—she's not even listed in the flight manifest!

Is Kyle losing her mind, as everybody on the plane—including sympathetic in-flight air marshal, Gene Carson (Peter Sarsgaard)—suggests? But, how do you lose your kid in an airplane? As one catty flight attendant said: "Just how far away can she go?"

Given the film's unlikely premise, we're tempted to reveal how deftly the movie's writers have successfully found a way around the possible narrative impasse and make the story work—but, we don't want to spoil the fun for you.

Suffice it to say that the production delivers on thrills that are as slick and smart as its leads' performances, with Foster finding the perfect co-actors (Sarsgaard and Sean Bean, as the aircraft's pilot) to exchange thespic sparks with. But, what's next for Foster: "Panic Room" on a cruise ship?

### "Ilusyon"

D: Paolo Villaluna, Ellen Ramos
S: Yul Servo, Jaycee Parker

Go catch Paolo Villaluna and Ellen Ramos' feature film—about how Miguel (Yul Servo), an artist's son, falls for a pretty artists' model, Stella (Jaycee Parker), but starts to lose interest when physical imperfection starts to "stain" her beauty—before it ends its run in Robinsons' cinemas. You'll understand why the movie, one of the year's best films, ended up earning the Cinema Evaluation Board's top grade of A:

Anchored by the finely-tuned performances of Parker and Servo, the film is heartbreaking in its simplicity and beauty. It likewise benefits from top-notch cinematography and production design—technical elements that vividly capture the look of the '50s.

From crisp imagery that establishes the mood and tone of every scene and character, "Ilusyon" is a rare cinematic delight that doesn't overwhelm its story with self-indulgent visual excesses and protracted storytelling.

More than its empathetic performances and fine production values, however, it is "Ilusyon's" heart-rending and life-affirming lessons on life and love that hold the film together.

Love and physical beauty don't often go together. And beauty may be skin-deep, but it evolves into a deeper form when love enters the picture—and *that's* when the illusion of finding real love in this world becomes a reality!

### "Ab-Normal Beauty"

D: Oxide Pang
S: Race Wong and Roseanne Wong

Oxide Pang ("Bangkok Dangerous," "The Eye") comes up with another edgy thriller replete with mood, color, atmosphere and intrigue, about Jiney (the luminous Race Wong), a rich and beautiful art student with a knack for painting and photography. Her best friend, Jas (played by real-life twin sister, Roseanne Wong), is also her lover.

But, Jiney feels that there's something lacking in her craft—then, she witnesses a fatal car accident, and finds herself drawn to taking pictures of dead bodies.

One day, she is sent a video that details the grisly ritual of a young woman being beaten to death. Is it a warning? Or, is it just the killer's way to commune with a soul mate?

The last 30 minutes of the film feel more perfunctory than provocative, but Pang's visual panache, like Peter Greenaway ("Prospero's Books," "Drowning by Numbers") and Hong Kong auteur, Yonfan ("Bishonen," "Colour Blossoms"), has always served his oeuvre well.

But, here's a word of caution: Despite its

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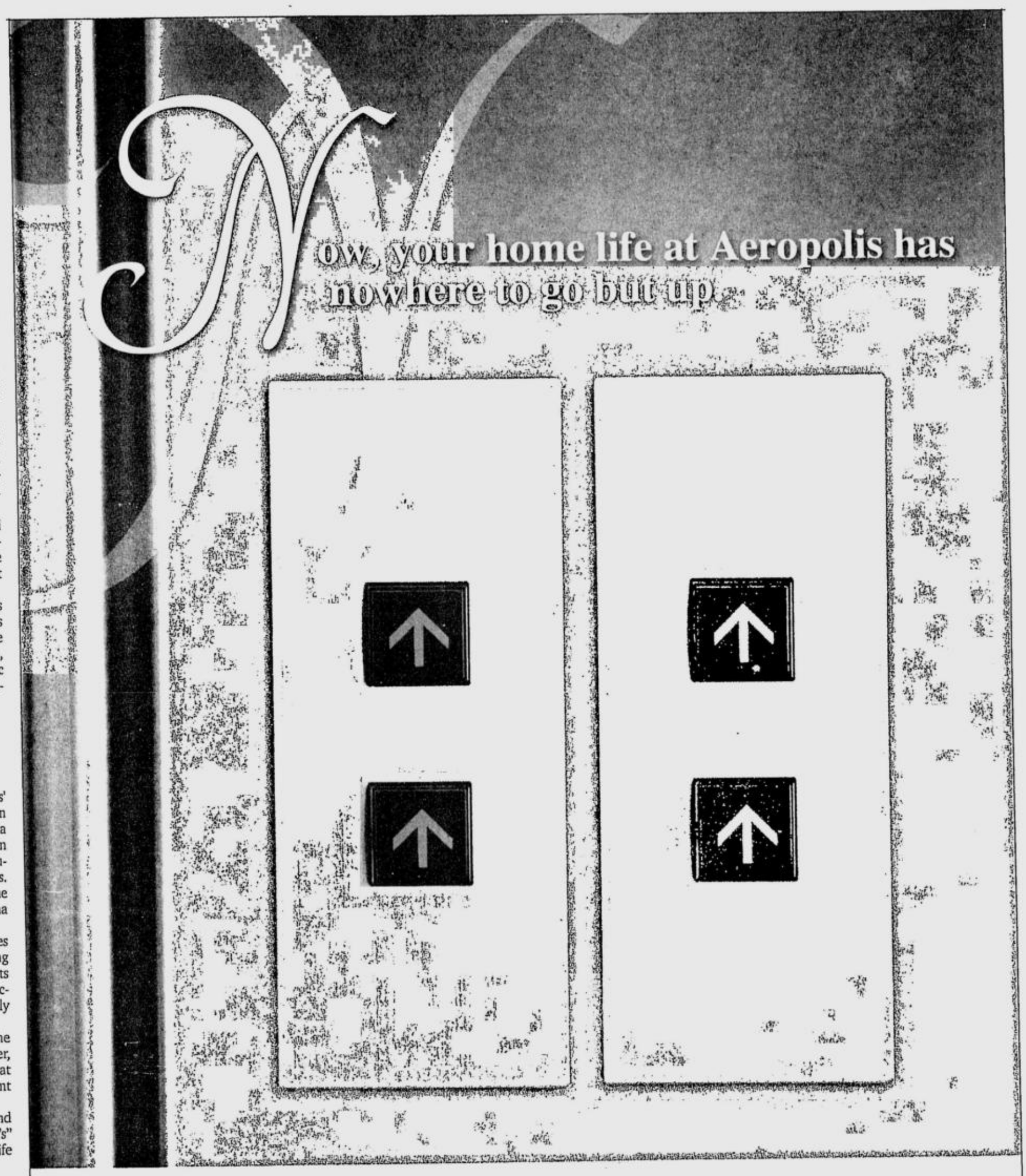

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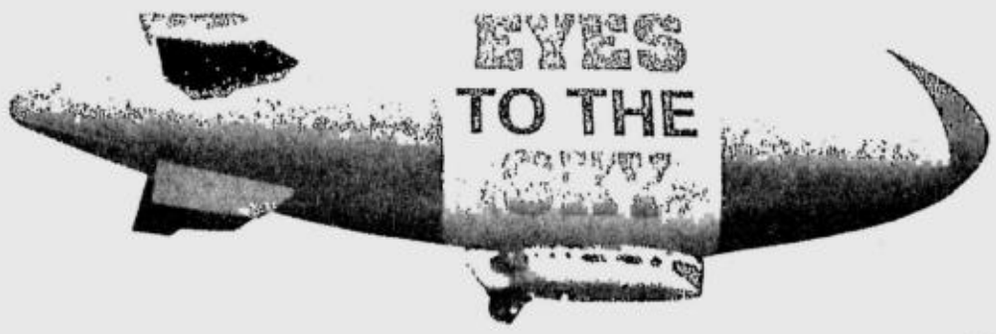


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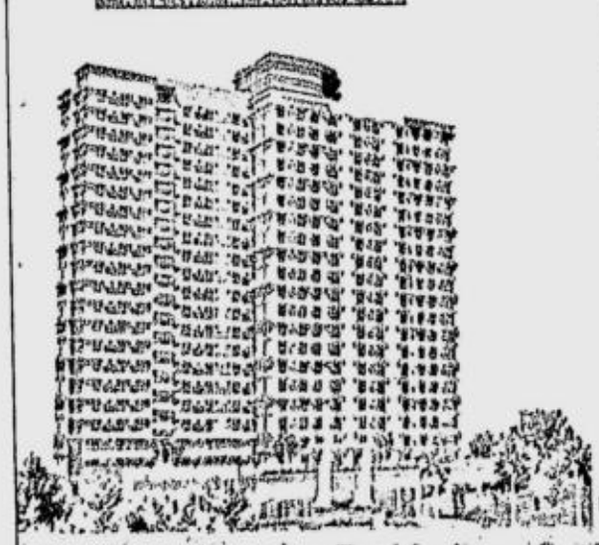

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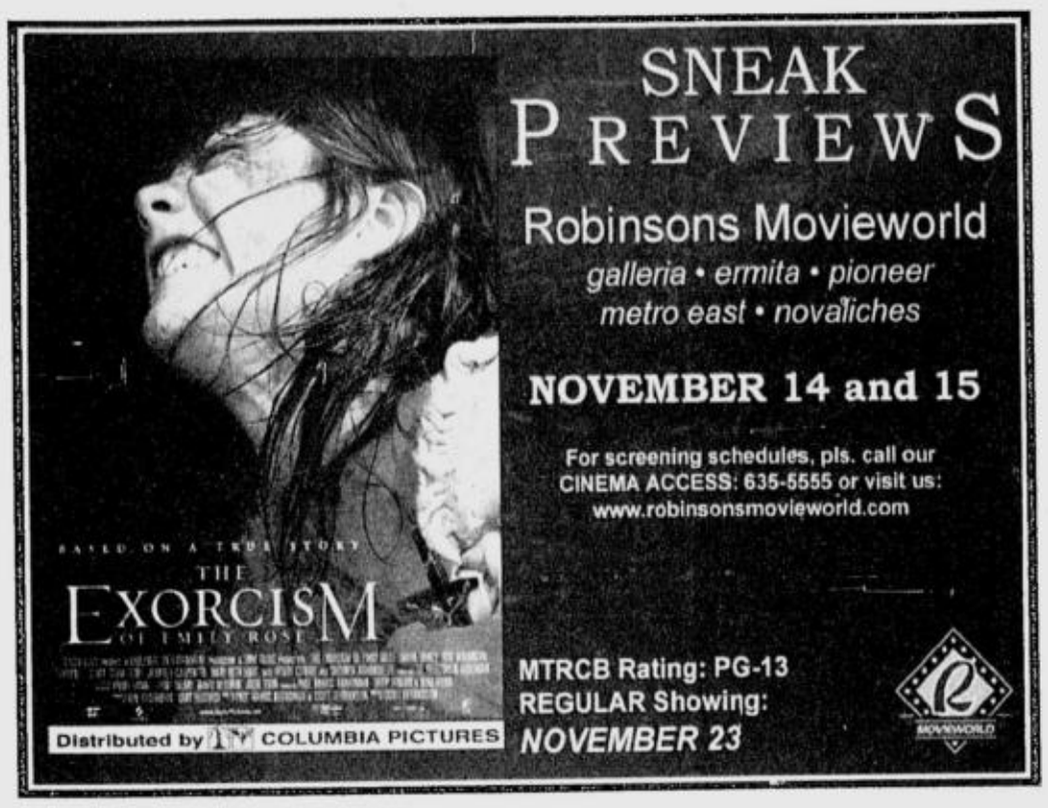



# Entertaining the global Filipino

"DUBAI." Star Cinema's hit drama, starring Aga Muhlach, Claudine Barretto and John Lloyd Cruz, had premiere screenings for Filipinos abroad in key cities like London, Milan and San Francisco.

By Nestor U. Torre

FINALLY, THE PHILIPPINE ENTERTAINMENT industry is slowly but surely becoming aware of the huge audience and market potential of servicing the millions of Filipinos living and working abroad with homegrown show biz and media products.

On TV and in the movies, ABS-CBN and Star Cinema have been leading the way with The Filipino Channel and premiere screenings abroad of new film productions.

## International success

Also in the movies, Unitel has enjoyed some international success with its showing in key US cities of movies like "American Adobo."

We've been urging local producers to "think international" for years now, because we've seen for ourselves how hungry Filipinos abroad are for our homegrown entertainment products.

In the '90s, we wrote the script for a US show that Johnny Manahan directed for Filipino communities in Washington D.C. and New York.

We were impressed with the great number of Fil-Americans who converged on those two sites and made the show an SRO hit.

Years later, on Dulce's European tour, we witnessed the same phenomenon in countries like Germany, Austria and Switzerland: Hundreds of Filipinos and their spouses and children cheered and wept during Dulce's performances, and clamored for more.

## Sizable market

In addition, we saw how Filipinos in those countries avidly bought tapes of Filipino movies for the equivalent of $10 or $15 each. —There was a sizable market out there, just waiting to be serviced!

Sometime later, we were asked to write and direct the London-based "Pinoy" musical show starring the Filipinos in "Miss Saigon," like Junix Inocian, Jamie Rivera, Robert Seña and Isay Alvarez.

The entertainment cavalcade was also performed in other European countries, mainly for the Filipinos living there—and the response was similarly avid and gratifying!

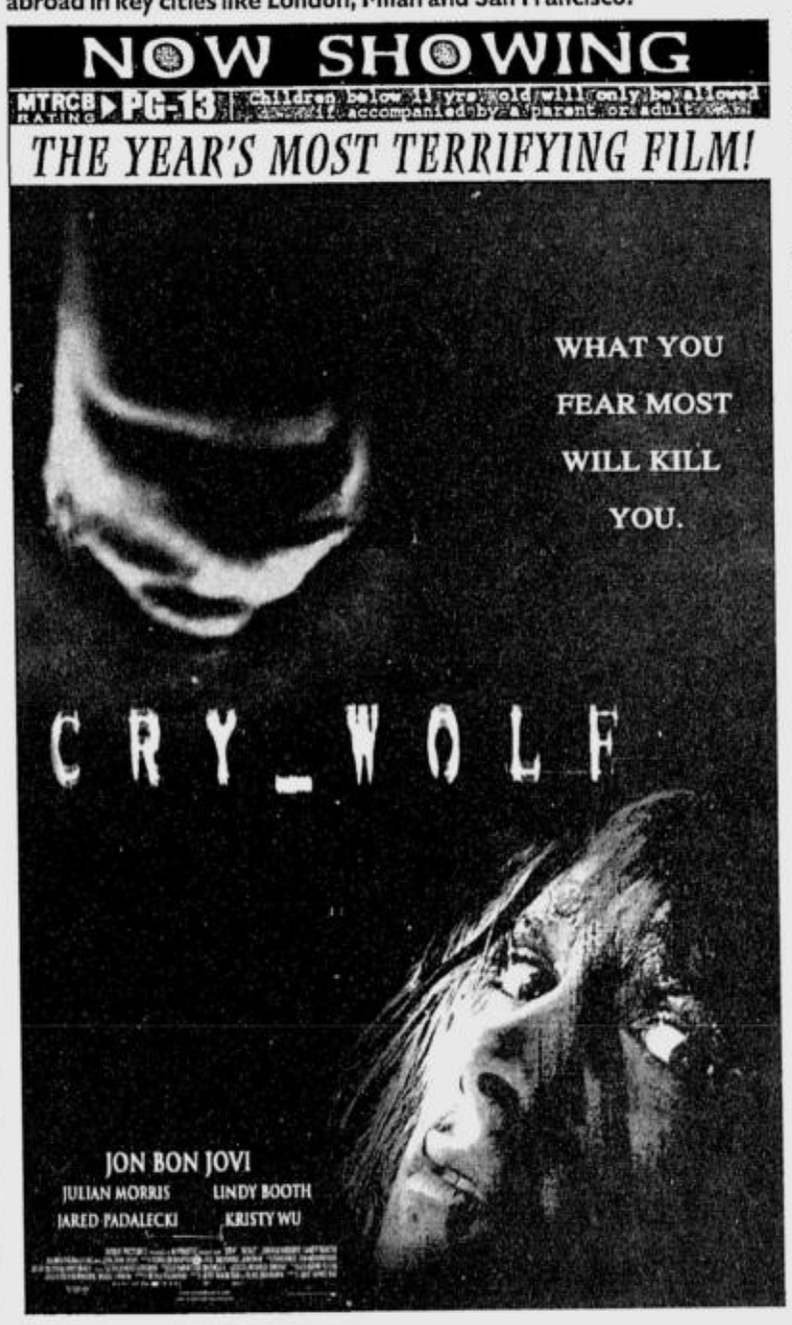
These eye-opening experiences clued us in to the fact that the huge community of Filipinos abroad was a particularly strong market, because *Pinoys* in other countries need to keep in touch with the land they've left behind, and are willing to pay good money for that key nostalgic connection.

## Information and inspiration

Today, the market has grown even bigger, because the global Filipino now wants not just entertainment, but information and inspiration as well.

Thus, the biggest comers in this field are the TV shows that the ABS-CBN and GMA networks are telecasting for *Pinoy* viewers abroad. Through their news programs, Filipinos in other countries keep up with events here, and they're grateful for that important psychic link.

The TV shows fill a real need, so the service's reach and success should grow exponentially in the years to come. —A word to the wise entertainment and media investor!

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# Slick, smart . . .

From page A4-1

technical excellence, queasy about crime and carnage (not unlike those found in Alejandro Amenabar's "Thesis" or the Nicolas Cage starrer "8mm"), so the production's "snuff film" theme may turn off viewers.

**"Cry_Wolf"**
D: Jeff Wadlow
S: Julian Morris, Jon Bon Jovi, Jared Padalecki

In Jeff Wadlow's formulaic but incessantly imaginative thriller, the director keeps the audience guessing with the story's fascinating plot twists and an ultimately gratifying ending.

After taking part in a "lying game" to spread rumors about a series of fictitious murders—each one more elaborate than the next—Owen (Julian Morris) and his seven friends at the exclusive Westlake prep school start to find themselves in situations they themselves "imagined."

But, like the boy who cried wolf, when the students start to tell the truth, they could no longer convince the authorities to believe them. The only person who seems to be on their side is their journalism instructor, Rich Walker (Jon Bon Jovi)—or is he?

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| 9:30 AM | JACKIE AND JILL |
| 10:00 AM | LET'S GET AWW |
| 11:00 AM | KA-TOQUE |
| 12:00 NN | BALITANGHALI |
| 12:30 NN | SHOW KO! PASIKLABAN NG BAYAN |
| 1:00 PM | GINTUANG TELON |
| 3:00 PM | 3R |
| 4:00 PM | CANDIES |
| 5:00 PM | FAM JAM |
| 6:00 PM | FANS KITA |
| 7:00 PM | AY, ROBOT! |
| 8:00 PM | DAY OFF |
| 9:00 PM | SABADO SHOWDOWN |
| 11:00 PM | MINT (MUSIC INTERACTION) |

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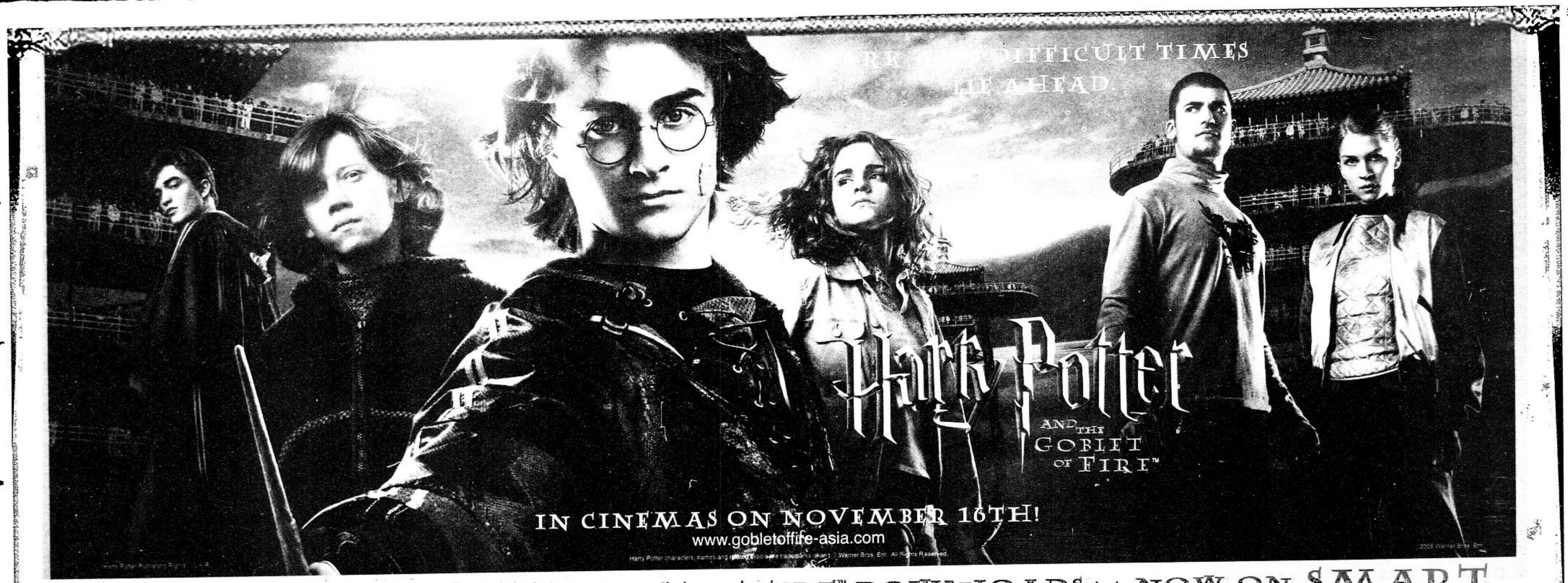


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# 'Hot money' inflows surge to $2.05B

## BSP says investor sentiment toward RP markets improving

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

NET FOREIGN INFLOWS INTO LOCAL STOCKS, DEBT PAPER AND other bank products swelled to $2.05 billion from January to October this year, or more than eight times the $254 million recorded in the same period last year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

But for the month of October, net portfolio inflows amounted to only $21.4 million, the lowest monthly level recorded so far this year. The net inflows for the month also stood lower than the $25.3 million reported a year ago.

BSP Officer-in-Charge Amando Suratos said investor sentiment during the second half of the month was affected largely by lingering political concerns, the report of a P27.7-billion budget deficit in September (a reversal of the P1.8-billion surplus in August), the rise in key BSP policy rates and apprehensions over the negative effects of the implementation of the expanded value-added tax on inflation, consumption and overall economic growth.

The BSP said it expected net foreign portfolio investments—also referred to as "hot money" due to their volatile nature—to hit $2.6 billion this year and $2.8 billion in 2006.

In 2004, net inflows of portfolio investments from abroad amounted to only $486.8 million.

Suratos said transactions in BSP-registered foreign portfolio investments for the year through Nov. 4 resulted in a net inflow of $2.1 billion or 7.4 times the level over the same period last year.

On a gross basis, investments registered by the BSP during the period totaled $5 billion, or almost three times the level for the comparative period in 2004.

On the other hand, outflows or capital repatriation amounted to $2.9 billion, or more than double the $1.4 billion total for the same period last year.

"The bulk of registered foreign portfolio investments were in shares of stocks listed with the Philippine Stock Exchange, followed by placements in peso-denominated government securities, peso time deposits in banks and money market instruments issued by the local private sector," Suratos said.

"These investments were funded with new inward remittances of foreign exchange converted into pesos through banks operating in the Philippines," he said.

For the two-day, holiday-shortened week ending Nov. 4, Suratos said a large net inflow of $21.4 million was recorded follow-

HOT MONEY/ B3

**PAL'S 7TH A320 ENTERS SERVICE**
**Philippine Airlines took delivery last month of its seventh Airbus A320 aircraft, part of an interim fleet rejuvenation drive before it kicks off a comprehensive refleeting program next year. An eighth A320 is expected to arrive before the end of 2005. The new jets replace older Boeing 737 models in PAL's 31-aircraft fleet, which now boasts an average age of under nine years. Inset photo shows top PAL officials, led by president and COO Jaime J. Bautista (left), during the traditional pouring of champagne on the plane's nose. He is joined by PAL director Joseph Chua, and senior assistant vice president Cesar Chiong and senior vice president Capt. Julio F. Hernandez.**

## Ayala posts 48% jump in profit

**By Elizabeth L. Sanchez**

HOLDING FIRM AYALA CORP. YESTERDAY reported a 48-percent jump in net income in the first nine months of 2005 to P5.1 billion on improved profit contribution from its property, banking and water utility subsidiaries.

Ayala said in a report to the Philippine Stock Exchange that it also realized value from the sale of its shares in Ayala Land and Manila Water earlier this year, helping it sustain its income growth momentum.

Ayala president Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala said: "We are optimistic that the recent positive signals in the broader economy will continue to underpin our long-term growth prospects as well as create an environment

AYALA/ B3

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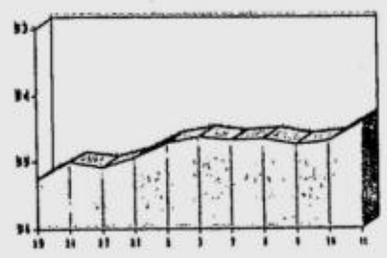


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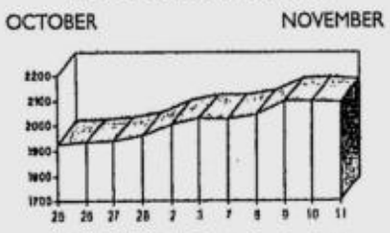
### STOCK MARKET

**Stocks slip on profit-taking**

**PSE COMPOSITE INDEX**




STOCKS SLIPPED yesterday as investors took profits following recent gains.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index fell 6.46 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,092.68, after rising 0.1 percent to an eight-month high on Thursday.

(See stock market report on Page B2)

Leading the market's retreat was blue chip Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., off 1.1 percent at P1,815, in step with the 2-percent loss suffered by its American Depositary Receipts in New York Thursday.

Bank of the Philippine Islands lost 3.3 percent to P59. Stockholders of the country's second-largest lender yesterday approved a merger with midsize Prudential Bank.

Ayala Land limited the market's loss with a gain of 2.1 percent to P9.70 after the country's largest property group reported a 19-percent

STOCKS/ B3

## Neda pushes tighter monitoring of prices

**By Michelle V. Remo**

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND Development Authority (Neda) has called for a tighter monitoring of prices now that the VAT Reform Law is in place, expressing concern that abuses in pricing could unduly push inflation higher.

The Neda made the call following reports that the implementation of the new VAT law starting Nov. 1 was being made an excuse by unscrupulous retailers to jack up prices.

Authorities have repeatedly reminded the public that the new VAT law only imposed the tax on previously exempted products and services such as oil and electricity. Most commodities had long been subjected to the 10-percent VAT and their prices should no longer increase by another 10-percent, according to Neda Director General Augusto Santos.

Prior to the implementation of the new VAT law, monthly inflation rates had been breaching the government's full-year target of only between 5 to 6 percent. Inflation for the January-to-October period already averaged at 7.9 percent, Santos said.

The government has admitted that the 5-to-6-percent official inflation forecast for this year was no longer attainable. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said it expected for 2005 to average between 7.6 and 7.9 percent.

Commodity prices are further

NEDA/ B3

# SMIC H1 net profits up 24.4%

## SM Prime income also climbs 7% to ₱3.6B

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

RETAIL SALES CONTINUED TO be the growth driver for SM Investments Corp. (SMIC) as it reported net income growth of 24.4 percent to P2.7 billion from April to September—considered to be the first half of the company's fiscal year.

SMIC's fiscal year ends in March.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, SMIC of mall tycoon Henry Sy said that its profits were higher during these months than the P2.2 billion it reported in the same period last year.

Consolidated revenues from April to September rose 10.6 percent to P25.2 billion, with retail sales accounting for the bulk, or 72 percent, of revenues.

Retail sales increased 7.9 percent from April to September to P18.2 billion, mostly due to the contribution of new SM department stores in Batangas and Dasmariñas, and the reopening of the SM Department store in Delgado, Iloilo. The company's retail business now operates a total of 24 department stores nationwide.

SMIC's total cost and expenses increased by only 8.9 percent to P19.7 billion in the April to September period.

Operating expenses also went up 13.6 percent to P5.6 billion as a result of the opening of new malls and department stores.

Earnings of its mall developer and operator, SM Prime Holdings, Inc. (SMPH), remained resilient despite the tough economic environment. Its net income from January to September amounted to P3.59 billion, a 7-percent increase from last year's P3.37 billion.

Contributing to the bulk of revenues, rental income from leases in malls and food courts grew 10 percent to P6.48 billion in the first nine months of 2005 from P5.91 billion in the same period last year.

Gross revenues likewise increased 5 percent to P7.80 billion in the first nine months of 2005 from P7.44 billion in the same period in 2004. Although operating expenses rose 6 percent to P3.35 billion this year from P3.15 billion last year, SMPH managed to post an operating income of P4.45 billion as of end-September 2005, up 4 percent from P4.29 billion last year.

Equity in net earnings of SMIC's units, Banco de Oro and China Bank, grew 58.9 percent to P1.2 billion from the previous year's P771 million. The big jump is largely due to the substantial improvement in the six-month income of Banco de Oro and China Bank.

BDO, in which SMIC holds a 46.6-percent stake, recorded a 41-percent increase in its first half income to P1.17 billion. China Bank, in which SMIC owns 21 percent, reported a 19-percent growth in income to P1.61 billion.

# Makati RTC OKs rehab of pre-need company

TROUBLED PRE-NEED FIRM Platinum Plans Philippines Inc. has won a court battle that would allow it to undergo rehabilitation.

In an order dated Oct. 14, the Makati Regional Trial Court approved the petition for rehabilitation lodged by Platinum Plans.

The order, penned by Judge Romeo Barza of Makati RTC Branch 61, stated that Platinum stood a "chance of being restored to a successful operation and solvency if given an opportunity to be rehabilitated under a viable rehabilitation plan."

Platinum has an estimated 37,000 plan holders.

The SEC received a copy of the order only yesterday.

Also, the court ordered that all comments and opposition filed by the firm's creditors be referred to Platinum's rehabilitation receiver Antonio Tupaz.

The court noted that as of December 2004, Platinum's total assets stood at P3.975 billion, with liabilities pegged at only P3.11 billion. While its assets are enough to cover its liabilities, Platinum was unable to pay its debts. Unless a viable rehabilitation plan is put in place, Platinum may lose all assets arising from its inability to service its debts. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

# ICTSI nine-month revenue up 10%

By Clarissa S. Batino

INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER Terminal Services, Inc. yesterday reported that its consolidated revenue in the first nine months grew 15 percent against the same period in 2004.

The growth was attributed to the strong take-up in the company's cargo handling operations in Poland and Brazil.

Taking out the share of port authorities, ICTSI's revenue from port operations here and abroad would reflect a 12-percent improvement in the third quarter compared to last year, the company said in a statement.

ICTSI, a company controlled by Enrique Razon, said it will submit its full financial report on Monday. It had to immediately disclose revenue gains because these exceeded 10 percent. This is in line with the rules of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The other day, the company announced that Shandong Yantai International Marine Shipping Co., China's fourth largest shipping line would be ICTSI's newest client at its flagship—the Manila International Container Terminal.

Shandong Yantai's expansion into the Southeast Asian market is a response to the increasing demand for shipping services between China and the region.

ICTSI said that with the entry of the Chinese shipping giant, the Manila port now services close to 40 international shipping line clients.

The Manila port is the country's sole container dedicated handling facility and is the most modern international trading gateway in the country. With an annual capacity of 1.5 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent), the port's productivity is at par with the region's fastest and efficient terminals.

# Ginebra San Miguel earnings down 55%

GINEBRA SAN MIGUEL INC., the hard liquor subsidiary of San Miguel Corp., reported that its net income from January to September plunged 55 percent to P590 million from P1.31 billion in the same period last year.

The company said the drop in income was due to spiraling costs of raw materials and packaging.

In a presentation to investors late Thursday, GSMI reported that its operating income fell 47 percent to P1.03 billion from P1.93 billion, while sales revenue grew by 1 percent to P9.07 billion from P8.97 billion.

The tough economic environment, not the highly competitive liquor market, took its toll on the company, said Ferdinand K. Constantino, SMC's chief finance officer.

"Ginebra S an Miguel's nine month volume dropped to 20 million cases, 13 percent lower than last year," Constantino said during the investors' briefing.

He said sales revenue grew 1 percent due to a price increase in December 2004, while operating income shrank 47 percent on a spike in raw material and packaging costs.

Despite the temporary setback, GSMI is keen on getting back on its feet after it implements a plan to firm up its brands and introduce new liquor products.

"Despite being the long-established market leader, Ginebra has recognized that it needs to shake up the local liquor market," he said. "A plan has been put in place to strengthen its brands and reshape its existing portfolio with the introduction of new liquor products. Refinements in sales, marketing and distribution are also underway. Cost-saving measures combined with enhancements in production efficiencies will continue." *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

# RP secures $142M worth of contracts from China

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THIRTEEN CONTRACTS THAT could amount to $142 million in investments were signed yesterday by delegates of a trade mission from China and representatives of Philippine firms at the Manila Hotel.

Francis Chua, president of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the secretary-general of the Communist Party in Guangdong province led some 500 business leaders to look for opportunities in trading commodities and locating investments here.

"This one-day forum is the second leg of the Guangdong mission's tour of Australia, the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand," Chua said in an interview.

He said about 800 officials of local companies attended the forum to take part in business matching and one-on-one meetings with those from the mainland.

"Thirteen Guangdong firms and 15 local companies did a ceremonial signing of contracts," Chua said, adding that more transactions could have started yesterday.

One of the biggest contracts signed was the deal between state-firm Guangdong Gin LunHo Energy Inc.'s $29.7-million quarry mining venture with three local firms—Linetone International Mining, Cocony Investors and JCET Resource Mining Corp.

Three contracts worth $20 million each covered importation to China of knitting products, shoes, cellular phone components, coconut oil and fragrances.

A $12-million contract involved trade in musical instruments and an $11-million deal covered trade of motorcycles.

Other agreements involved the trade in animal feeds and additives, venetian blinds, air-conditioning and cooling systems, fashion products, petroleum products and electrical and electronic products.

"Also, we are looking at this trade mission as a model of similar projects that would bring Filipino business leaders overseas to promote trade with and investment in the Philippines," Chua said. "In particular, we want to learn about how to handle big groups like this 500-member mission from Guangdong."

The FFCCCI chief said his group so far had sent a 200-member mission to Xiamen last September and a smaller group to Nanking last month.

## Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Manila Philippines

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**
**Circular No. 497**
Series of 2005

Subject: **Amendment to Section 4126S – Limitations on Declaration of Dividends of the S Regulations (NSSLAs) of the MOR for NBFIs**

Pursuant to Monetary Board Resolution No. 1315 dated 06 October 2005, the provisions of Section 4126S of the S Regulations of the Manual of Regulations for Non-Bank Financial Institutions, is hereby amended as follows:

**Section 1.** Section 4126S is hereby amended as follows:

Section 4126S – LIMITATIONS ON DECLARATION OF DIVIDENDS

a. *Basis for participation in profits.* Member-depositors of an NSSLA on the basis of their capital contributions on the date dividends are declared.

b. *Level of withdrawable share reserve.* No NSSLA shall pay any dividends or distribute any profits to its members if the withdrawable share reserve required under Section 4117S is less than, or if by such payment or distribution would be reduced below, the amount specified in said section. The reserve shall be adjusted first before the NSSLA shall declare and pay out dividends at any time of the year.

c. *Capital-to-risk assets ratio.* NSSLAs shall not pay any dividends or distribute any profits to their members if their capital-to-risk assets ratio is below the level required under Section 4116S.

d. *Discrepancies between general ledger and subsidiary ledger accounts.* The surplus reserve set up as required under Section 4118S shall not be reverted for distribution as dividends unless and until the discrepancy between the general ledger accounts and their respective subsidiary ledgers for which the surplus reserve has been set up ceases to exist.

e. *Other unbooked capital adjustments required by BSP, whether or not allowed to be set up on a staggered basis.* **The unbooked valuation reserves and other unbooked capital adjustments required by BSP, whether or not allowed to be set up on a staggered basis, shall be deducted from the amount available for cash dividends.**

f. *Interest and other income earned but not yet collected/received, net of reserve for uncollected interest on loans.* **Accrued interest and other income not yet received but already recorded by an NSSLA, net of uncollected interest on loans, shall be deducted from the amount available for cash dividends.**

**Section 2.** Subsections 4126.1S and 4126.2S are hereby added to read as follows:

**§4126.1S – REPORTING AND VERIFICATION**

**Declaration of dividends shall be reported by an NSSLA concerned to the appropriate supervising and examining department of the BSP in the prescribed form (Revised BSP Form No. 7-26-25H) within the deadline indicated in Appendix S-2.**

**Pending verification of above mentioned report by the appropriate supervising and examining department of the BSP, the NSSLA concerned shall not make any announcement or communication on the declaration of dividends nor shall any payment be made thereon.**

**In any case, the declaration may be announced and the dividends paid, if after twenty (20) business days from the date the report required herein shall have been received by the BSP, no advice against such declaration has been received by the NSSLA concerned.**

**§4126.2S – RECORDING OF DIVIDENDS**

**The liability for dividends declared shall be taken up in the books upon receipt of BSP approval thereof, or if no such approval is received, after twenty (20) banking/business days from the date the required report on dividend declaration was received by the appropriate supervising and examining department of the BSP, whichever comes earlier. A memorandum entry may be made to record the dividend declaration on the date of approval by the board of trustees and for full disclosure purposes, the dividends declared may be disclosed in the financial statements by means of a footnote which should include a statement to the effect that the dividend declaration is subject to review by the BSP.**

This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two newspapers of general circulation.

FOR THE MONETARY BOARD:

**(Sgd.) AMANDO M. TETANGCO, JR.**
Governor

02 November 2005

## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE
(As of Nov. 11, 2005)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 33.5 | 34 | 33.5 | 34 | 323,800 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 61 | 61 | 58.5 | 59 | 1,608,100 |
| China Banking Corp. | 615 | 615 | 610 | 610 | 450 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 17.25 | 17.25 | 17.25 | 17.25 | 500 |
| Export and Ind. Bank, Inc. | 6700 | 0.67 | 0.65 | 0.65 | 1,890,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank, Inc. | 52.5 | 53 | 52.5 | 52.5 | 218,900 |
| International Exch. Bank | 20.5 | 20.75 | 20.5 | 20.5 | 33,300 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 30.5 | 30.5 | 30 | 30 | 1,058,300 |
| Philippine National Bank | 32 | 32 | 31.5 | 31.5 | 40,300 |
| Rizal Comm. Banking Corp. | 14.5 | 14.5 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 131,600 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 32.5 | 32.5 | 32.5 | 32.5 | 34,200 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 5,000 |
| **FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Bankard, Inc. | 8000 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 30,000 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 3000 | 3015 | 3000 | 3015 | 1,450 |
| PCI Leasing & Fin., Inc. | 1.06 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 233,000 |
| Sun Life Financial, Inc. | 2020 | 2020 | 2015 | 2020 | 1,350 |
| **COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **COMMUNICATION** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 15 | 15.25 | 15 | 15 | 61,200 |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 0.98 | 0.98 | 0.97 | 0.97 | 740,000 |
| Globe Telecom, Inc. | 725 | 730 | 725 | 725 | 7,580 |
| Ipeople Inc. | 2.75 | 2.85 | 2.75 | 2.85 | 178,000 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.049 | 0.049 | 0.048 | 0.049 | 8,100,000 |
| Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp. | 1.64 | 1.64 | 1.64 | 1.64 | 15,000 |
| Pilipino Tel. Corp. | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.35 | 3.4 | 1,904,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 1825 | 1825 | 1800 | 1815 | 122,540 |
| Ivantage Corp. | .6000 | 0.61 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 310,000 |
| Philweb Corp. | 0.016 | 0.017 | 0.015 | 0.017 | 81,100,000 |
| **POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES** | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 1,500 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 22 | 22 | 21.75 | 22 | 324,400 |
| Manila Water Co. Inc. | 6.7 | 6.8 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 5,295,000 |
| Petron Corp. | 3.95 | 4 | 3.95 | 3.95 | 10,068,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 0.96 | 0.97 | 0.96 | 0.97 | 40,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS** | | | | | |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | 5800 | 0.58 | 0.58 | 0.58 | 560,000 |
| Holcim Philippines Inc. | 3.55 | 3.65 | 3.55 | 3.65 | 1,285,000 |
| Phil Nat'l Const. Corp. | 2.5 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 2.8 | 279,300 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 3.65 | 3.65 | 3.65 | 3.65 | 75,000 |
| Ginebra San Miguel Inc. | 28 | 28.5 | 28 | 28 | 44,700 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 38.5 | 38.5 | 37.5 | 38 | 590,100 |
| Pancake House Inc. | 2.95 | 3.05 | 2.95 | 3.05 | 239,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 65 | 65 | 64.5 | 65 | 85,300 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 89.5 | 90 | 89.5 | 90 | 349,700 |
| Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 8,000 |
| Universal Robina Corp. | 16.5 | 16.75 | 16.5 | 16.5 | 116,100 |
| Vitarich Corp. | .3000 | 0.31 | 0.3 | 0.31 | 230,000 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg A | 0.007 | 0.0075 | 0.007 | 0.0075 | 13,000,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 320 | 320 | 315 | 317.5 | 233,320 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 5.1 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 720,000 |
| Ajo.Nat Holdings, Inc. | 0.024 | 0.024 | 0.023 | 0.023 | 22,800,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 2.24 | 2.26 | 2.24 | 2.26 | 1,000,000 |
| Anglo Phil Holdings Corp. | 0.82 | 0.84 | 0.82 | 0.82 | 500,000 |
| Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc. | 9.4 | 9.4 | 9.4 | 9.4 | 11,000 |
| Boulevard Holdings, Inc. | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 500,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.12 | 1.12 | 1,907,000 |
| Basic Consolidated, Inc. | 0.2 | 0.21 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1,720,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.2 | 0.205 | 0.2 | 0.205 | 160,000 |
| Southeast Asian Cement | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 3,060,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 3.7 | 3.75 | 3.65 | 3.75 | 1,541,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | 1.1 | 1.16 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 13,004,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 48 | 48 | 48 | 48 | 405,900 |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 2,000,000 |
| House of Investments Inc. | 0.82 | 0.82 | 0.82 | 0.82 | 40,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings, Inc. | 3.75 | 3.75 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 802,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 1.28 | 1.32 | 1.28 | 1.28 | 64,276,000 |
| Multitech Inv. Corp. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 500,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.36 | 0.37 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 28,120,000 |
| Paxys, Inc. | 5.3 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 684,000 |
| Prime Orion Phils. Inc. | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 450,000 |
| Roxas Holdings Inc. | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 57,000 |
| Solid Group Inc. | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 50,000 |
| SM Investments Corp. | 249 | 252.5 | 248 | 249 | 266,770 |
| Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.135 | 0.14 | 0.135 | 0.135 | 12,060,000 |
| Wellex Industries Inc. | 0.115 | 0.12 | 0.115 | 0.12 | 1,000,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 50,000 |
| **MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING** | | | | | |
| Interphil Labs Inc. B | 8100 | 0.81 | 0.81 | 0.81 | 750,000 |
| Metro Alliance Holdings | 4400 | 0.44 | 0.44 | 0.44 | 10,000 |
| Metro Alliance Hldgs B | 3800 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 980,000 |
| Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. | 7600 | 0.76 | 0.76 | 0.76 | 50,000 |
| Picop Resources Inc. | 875 | 0.0875 | 0.0875 | 0.0875 | 100,000 |
| Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp. | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 2,000 |
| Steniel Manufacturing | 1300 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 70,000 |
| **HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 9700 | 0.98 | 0.95 | 0.96 | 2,250,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 7600 | 0.76 | 0.76 | 0.76 | 100,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 210,000 |
| Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc. | 3100 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 300,000 |
| **BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15 | 15 | 265,500 |
| **OTHERS** | | | | | |
| Centro Escolar University | 8.8 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 5,000 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 9.5 | 9.7 | 9.5 | 9.7 | 14,868,000 |
| Cityland Development Corp. | 1.42 | 1.42 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 521,000 |
| Cebu Holdings Inc. | 9700 | 0.99 | 0.97 | 0.98 | 1,790,000 |
| C&P Homes Inc. | 2600 | 0.27 | 0.26 | 0.27 | 4,270,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 2300 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 250,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 4100 | 0.45 | 0.41 | 0.44 | 128,000,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.44 | 1.48 | 1.44 | 1.46 | 6,134,000 |
| Kuok Phil. Properties | 2100 | 0.21 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 4,680,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 4800 | 0.48 | 0.48 | 0.48 | 10,000 |
| Philippine Estates Corp. | 1500 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 50,000 |
| Robinsons Land Corp. | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 10,000 |
| Phil Realty and Holdings | 1550 | 0.16 | 0.155 | 0.16 | 330,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 1.42 | 1.44 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 239,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 8.2 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 10,982,000 |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. A | 0.96 | 0.97 | 0.96 | 0.97 | 150,000 |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. B | 0.97 | 0.97 | 0.97 | 0.97 | 30,000 |
| Abra Mining & Industrial | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 102,000,000 |
| Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 505,000 |
| Benguet Corp. A | 8.2 | 8.2 | 8.2 | 8.2 | 13,000 |
| Benguet Corp. B | 41.5 | 41.5 | 41.5 | 41.5 | 1,000 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.22 | 0.225 | 0.22 | 0.225 | 11,000,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B | 0.24 | 0.25 | 0.24 | 0.245 | 14,910,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.016 | 0.016 | 0.016 | 0.016 | 31,100,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. B | 0.024 | 0.025 | 0.024 | 0.024 | 3,700,000 |
| Omico Corp. | .60 | 0.006 | 0.0055 | 0.0055 | 127,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 1.12 | 1.14 | 1.1 | 1.14 | 5,331,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 1.32 | 1.36 | 1.32 | 1.34 | 5,113,000 |
| Semirara Mining Corp. | 27.5 | 27.5 | 27.5 | 27.5 | 18,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 70 | 0.007 | 0.007 | 0.007 | 8,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 80 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 9,000,000 |
| Petroenergy Res. Corp. | 4 | 4 | 3.95 | 3.95 | 56,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | 1350 | 0.14 | 0.135 | 0.135 | 2,950,000 |
| Vulcan Ind'l | 3400 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 50,000 |

## DISCLOSURES

**BANCO De Oro Universal Bank's** major stockholder Primebridge Holdings, Inc. plans to offer Global Depositary Receipts with its BDO shares as the underlying securities.

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**SM Prime Holdings Inc.** had a net income of P3.59 billion during the first nine months of 2005, a 7-percent increase from last year's P3.37 billion. The company also announced that it would open on November 18 an SM Supercenter in Molino, Cavite.

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**FAIRMONT Holdings Inc.** elected as directors for the ensuing year Ferdinand Masi, Garry De Guzman, Cirilo Manlangit, Lourdes Clemente and Evelyn Cacho. Elected as independent directors were Enrique Soriano III and Ma. Vicenta Jalandoni. Manlangit was voted chair while Masi was elected president. Meanwhile, Punongbayan & Araullo was reappointed as independent auditors from 2005 to 2006. *Compiled by: Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research*

## CURRENCIES

| November 11, 2005 Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.855578 | 1.000000 | 54.7100 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.007235 | 0.008456 | 0.4626 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.489904 | 1.741400 | 95.2720 |
| Hongkong | Dollar | 0.110324 | 0.128947 | 7.0547 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.650531 | 0.760341 | 41.5983 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.718068 | 0.839278 | 45.9169 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.502484 | 0.587303 | 32.1313 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.624738 | 0.730194 | 39.9489 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 2.271186 | 2.654562 | 145.2311 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.228142 | 0.266652 | 14.5885 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.501012 | 0.585583 | 32.0372 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000086 | 0.000100 | 0.0055 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.020802 | 0.024313 | 1.3302 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.232956 | 0.272279 | 14.8964 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.168800 | 63.9450 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.287589 | 0.336134 | 18.3899 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.393731 | 0.460193 | 25.1772 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134099 | 0.156735 | 8.5750 |
| India | Rupee | 0.018726 | 0.021887 | 1.1974 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.226493 | 0.264725 | 14.4831 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.080077 | 0.093594 | 5.1205 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.587260 | 0.686389 | 37.5523 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.129568 | 0.151439 | 8.2852 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.014329 | 0.016748 | 0.9163 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.126757 | 0.148153 | 8.1055 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000818 | 0.000956 | 0.0523 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.103898 | 0.121436 | 6.6438 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.016482 | 0.019264 | 1.0539 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.025498 | 0.029802 | 1.6305 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000399 | 0.000466 | 0.0255 |

# Gov't still considering tariff cuts on diesel

By Abigail L. Ho

## Preparing for sudden surges in crude prices

ALTHOUGH INTERNATIONAL diesel prices have started to soften, the Department of Energy continues to be in discussion with the Department of Finance on the possible further reduction of tariffs on diesel and other socially sensitive fuels.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said this mitigation measure would likely be triggered in the event of a sudden surge in prices in the coming months, particularly with the advent of winter in the northern hemisphere.

Diesel is usually used as a heating fuel, so prices traditionally surge during the winter months.

But based on current trends, the regional benchmark Dubai crude and the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products had been steadily declining these past two months.

According to data from the Department of Energy, Dubai crude had slipped to a November average of $53.13 a barrel from $53.96 last month.

The price of MOPS-based unleaded gasoline had likewise fallen to a Nov. 1-10 average of $63.59 a barrel from last month's $69.10.

MOPS-based diesel had also significantly dropped to an average of $65.44 a barrel in the first 10 days of the month from $76.08 in October.

Lotilla said the decline in prices, combined with the strengthening peso, had softened the impact of the imposition of the 10-percent value-added tax (VAT) on petroleum products starting Nov. 1.

But as winter drew near, he said increased demand from countries in the northern hemisphere for heating fuel such as diesel could be expected.

Despite this, he said there were indications that prices were now stabilizing and would not follow the unusual spikes registered in August and September, at least for the near term.

"These positive developments and the absence of any supply constraints have minimized further any need to resort to emergency measures," he said. "In the unlikely event of a sharp rise in diesel prices and the need for deeper mitigation measures arises, the DOE is prepared to discuss with the DOF a temporary further reduction of tariff duties on diesel and other socially sensitive products."

One of the measures that the government implemented to cushion the impact of the VAT on fuel prices was the reduction of import tariffs on crude and finished products from 5 percent to 3 percent.

The VAT reform law also scrapped excise taxes on diesel (P1.63 a liter), kerosene (60 centavos a liter) and bunker (30 centavos a liter). The excise tax on regular gasoline was also slashed by 45 centavos a liter to P4.35 from P4.80.

# PGAI seeks apology from Clark firm

PRUDENTIAL GUARANTEE AND Assurance Inc. (PGAI) has asked Clark Development Corp. to rectify statements accusing the insurance firm of failing to honor a P69-million bidder's bond issued in favor of I.A. Campbell & Associates in connection with the March 16, 2004, bidding for the privatization of the Mimosa Leisure Estate.

PGAI, through counsel Felipe Antonio B. Remollo, has sent a demand letter to Victor Jose Luciano, chief operating officer of CDC.

Remollo said that the Makati Prosecutor's Office did not have any record of the filing of any case against PGAI as claimed by the CDC official.

PGAI also denied the claim of CDC on the bidder's bond, citing RA 9184 (Government Procurement Reform Act) that stated that a bid security is a guarantee that the winning bidder, after the notice of award, "shall enter into a contract with the procuring entity within the stipulated time and furnish the required performance security." Since there was a failed bidding on March 16, it said the bid bond was inoperative and could not be forfeited.

Remollo added that "CDC has only itself to blame for its dilemma by entertaining the submission of documents after the failed bidding on March 16, 2004, instead of conducting a rebidding as mandated by law."

Belying the claim that CDC was damaged when it declared a failed bidding on March 16, Remollo underscored the fact that " to claim against the bidder's bond would be undue enrichment on the part of CDC at the expense of PGAI, which was never informed of any negotiation or arrangement between CDC and I.A. Campbell after the failed bidding on March 16, 2004."

The Nov. 3, 2005, letter of Remollo said PGAI would be constrained to file civil, administrative and criminal charges unless CDC issued a public apology.

The controversy stemmed from a press briefing conducted by Luciano wherein he announced the forfeiture of the PGAI bidder's bond for the submission of alleged falsified "proof of funds" by I.A. Campbell & Associates during the bidding for the rehabilitation of Mimosa Leisure Estate last March 16, 2004.

# 'Hot money' inflows surge to $2.05B

From page B1

ing investor optimism that the implementation of the VAT starting Nov. 1 would shore up the government's finances and boost the country's sovereign credit rating.

"The continued easing of oil prices and the appreciation of the peso, bolstered by substantial OFW (overseas Filipino workers) remittances, also boosted investor sentiment during the week," Suratos said.

# Neda pushes tighter monitoring of prices

From page B1

expected to shoot up next year when the VAT rate is increased to 12 percent from 10 percent.

The new VAT law, aside from expanding the coverage of the tax, would also increase the VAT rate by two percentage points starting January 2006.

The BSP had said it would keep a cautious stance in the monitoring of prices, adding that it was not discounting moves to again tighten monetary supply if threats of a major rise in inflation arose.

The central bank had tightened money supply by increasing key interest rates twice this year, bringing its overnight borrowing rate now to 7.5 percent and overnight lending rate to 9.75 percent.

Higher interest rates reduce demand for loans and therefore prevents increased spending. Higher spending consequently increases prices of basic goods and services.

"The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas continues to monitor demand-side pressures and second-round effects and remains ready to act should any undue pressure in inflation persist," the monetary agency had said.

But while fuel prices would increase with the new VAT law, Santos said, the burden on consumers would be partly offset by the decline in prices of rice and corn. The prices of the two agricultural products were positively being affected by improved harvest, he said.

# Ayala posts 48% jump in profit

From page B1

that will lead to sustained economic recovery."

Property subsidiary Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) posted consolidated profits of P2.6 billion in the first nine months of the year, up 46 percent from a year ago. Consolidated revenues increased by 35 percent to P16.5 billion.

ALI's performance was fueled by revenues from shopping center operations, which rose 23 percent on higher gross leasable area and higher rental fees.

Revenue from high-end residential lots grew 14 percent while those of middle income developments jumped 80 percent. Revenue from construction rose 41 percent while sales from property management services grew 11 percent. Earnings were also enhanced by gains from the sale of ALI's stake in the MRT-3 project in the first quarter of the year.

Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) recorded a 20-percent year-on-year increase in net income in the first nine months to P6.3 billion. The bank's total revenue grew 23 percent, underpinned by higher net interest and non-interest income. Growth in non-interest income was driven by gains from asset sales and the robust performance of the insurance, and asset management and trust businesses. The growth in BPI's net income was tempered by the increase in provision for losses to P2.1 billion from P900 million last year, due to P630 million in probable losses set up by recently acquired Prudential Bank and potential adjustments under new accounting regulations.

While Globe Telecom's consolidated net income in the first nine months dipped by 28 percent to P6.4 billion, net income in the third quarter grew 87 percent to P2.2 billion from the previous quarter.

Companies under AC Capital also contributed significantly to the group with equity earnings collectively up 30 percent from last year. This was underpinned by the strong performance of Manila Water Co. and Integrated Microelectronics.

Manila Water's net income in the first nine months grew 46 percent to P1.5 billion. Continued improvements in operating efficiency with lower nonrevenue water and consistent increases in billed volume pushed revenues 33 percent higher to P4.1 billion.

Electronics subsidiary Integrated Microelectronics Inc. (IMI) posted a nine-month net income of P931 million, 7 percent higher than the P871 million earned during the same period last year. IMI's revenue grew 58 percent, driven by higher volumes from key customers.

# Stocks slip on profit-taking

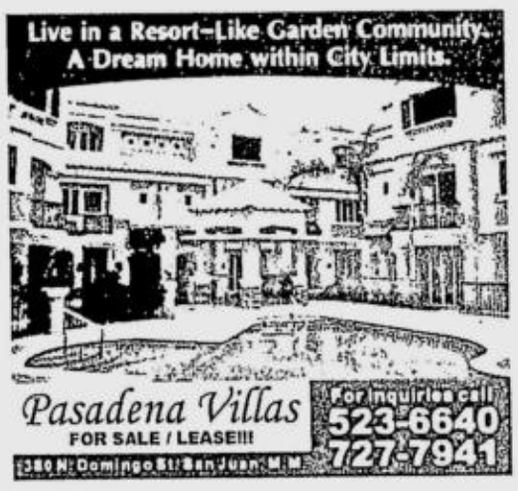
From page B1

year on-year improvement in its third-quarter net profit.

"It was a mild technical correction. The market was due for a break because it's at overbought levels already," said AB Capital Securities research director Jose Vistan. "Next week, I think we will continue to see the market go up."

Analysts said market sentiment has improved following the implementation last week of the expanded value-added tax law, the government's most important revenue reform measure.

Decliners led gainers 38 to 36, while 44 stocks were unchanged. *AP*

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# PUBLIC AUCTION

NOVEMBER 25, 2005 • FRIDAY • 2:00 PM • MARCIAN HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER, Gov. Camins Avenue, Zamboanga City

## ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR

**ZAMBOANGA CITY**

LOT 1 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 180 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 3 Country Homes Subd., Brgy Ayala
Minimum Bid Price : 131,000.00

LOT 2 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 180 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 3 Country Homes Subd., Brgy Ayala
Minimum Bid Price : 131,000.00

LOT 3 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 180 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 3 Country Homes Subd., Brgy. Ayala
Minimum Bid Price : 131,000.00

LOT 4 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 180 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 3 Country Homes Subd., Brgy. Ayala
Minimum Bid Price : 131,000.00

LOT 5 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 180 sqm.
Lot 18 Blk 3 Country Homes Subd., Brgy Ayala
Minimum Bid Price : 171,000.00

LOT 6 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 180 sqm.
Lot 19 Blk 3 Country Homes Subd., Brgy. Ayala
Minimum Bid Price : 171,000.00

LOT 7 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 180 sqm.
Lot 20 Blk 3 Country Homes Subd., Brgy. Ayala
Minimum Bid Price : 171,000.00

LOT 8 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 180 sqm.
Lot 21 Blk 3 Country Homes Subd., Brgy. Ayala
Minimum Bid Price : 171,000.00

LOT 9 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 266 sqm.
Lot 22 Blk 3 Country Homes Subd., Brgy Ayala
Minimum Bid Price : 278,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 300 sqm. F.A.: 290 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 1 Baliwasan Grande Road, Brgy Baliwasan
Minimum Bid Price : 1,740,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 309 sqm. F.A.: 187 sqm.
Lot 6, Blk 5 26-T Seafront Subd.,Brgy Baliwasan
Minimum Bid Price 914,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 634 sqm. F.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot No. 237-C M. Ledesma Road,Brgy. Baliwasan
Minimum Bid Price : 2,240,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 246 sqm. F.A.: 70 sqm.
Lot 4, Blk 4 Subd. Road, Seafront Subd., Brgy. Baliwasan
Minimum Bid Price : 443,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 327 sqm. F.A.: 257 sqm.
Lot 15 Blk 2 Seafront Subd.,Baliwasan
Minimum Bid Price : 527,000.00

LOT 15 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 247 sqm. F.A.: 97 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 1 Seafront Subd., Baliwasan
Minimum Bid Price : 525,000.00

LOT 16 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 483 sqm. F.A.: 218 sqm.
L2B17 Sutherville Subd., Brgy. Baliwasan
Minimum Bid Price : 1,317,000.00

LOT 17 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,367 sqm.
Lot 226-B Ranches Dr., Baliwasan
Minimum Bid Price : 738,000.00

LOT 18 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 580 sqm. F.A.: 574 sqm.
Lots 5&4 Blk 1 Seafront Subd., Baliwasan
Minimum Bid Price : 2,350,000.00

LOT 19 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 461 sqm. F.A.: 109 sqm.
Lots 2 Blk 1 26-U Seafront Subd. Baliwasan
Minimum Bid Price : 692,000.00

LOT 20 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 486 sqm. F.A.: 395 sqm.
Lots 1 Blk 1 26-U Seafront Subd. Baliwasan
Minimum Bid Price : 1,485,000.00

LOT 21 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,098 sqm. F.A.: 373 sqm.
Lot 283-A-1 160 Johnston Road, Baliwasan
Minimum Bid Price : 2,664,000.00

LOT 22 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 387 sqm. F.A.: 134 sqm.
Lot 211-A No.47 Nanka Dr., Baliwasan
Minimum Bid Price : 367,000.00

LOT 23 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 462 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 14 Sutherville Subd Baliwasan
Minimum Bid Price : 250,000.00

LOT 24 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 450 sqm.
Lot 13 Blk 14 Sutherville Subd Baliwasan
Minimum Bid Price : 252,000.00

LOT 25 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 475 sqm.
Lot 16 Blk 14 Sutherville Subd Baliwasan
Minimum Bid Price : 266,000.00

LOT 26 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 489 sqm.
Lot 243-E-3 Int W/ row, Baliwasan Grande Road
Minimum Bid Price : 489,000.00

LOT 27 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 355 sqm. F.A.: 177 sqm.
Lot 501-B-3-D Islam Dr., Brgy Canelar
Minimum Bid Price : 893,000.00

LOT 28 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 761 sqm. F.A.: 405 sqm.
Lot 3-A-1 Apolinario Rd, Brgy. Guiwan
Minimum Bid Price : 2,776,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,000 sqm. F.A.: 459 sqm.
Lots 1451-C-3-C-1 & 1451-C-3-C-2 Lacson Drive, Brgy Guiwan
Minimum Bid Price : 2,261,000.00

LOT 30 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 6,531 sqm.
Lot 1199-C Brgy. Kasanyangan
Minimum Bid Price : 2,026,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 307 sqm.
Lot 1-B Duston Dr., Brgy. Rio Hondo
Minimum Bid Price : 205,000.00

LOT 32 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 287 sqm. F.A.: 83 sqm.
Lot 1-C Duston Dr., Brgy. Rio Hondo
Minimum Bid Price : 415,000.00

LOT 33 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 515 sqm. F.A.: 363 sqm.
Lot 279-B-2-A Ata Dr., Johnston Road, Brgy San Jose, Gusu
Minimum Bid Price : 1,305,000.00

LOT 34 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 218 sqm. F.A.: 256 sqm.
Lot 96-A-2 Int. Varela St., San Jose
Minimum Bid Price : 765,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 278 sqm. F.A.: 164 sqm.
Lot 335-B-1-B Mother Ignacia Vill, San Roque
Minimum Bid Price : 1,035,000.00

LOT 36 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,938 sqm. F.A.: 233 sqm.
Lot 6 Brgy. Tetuan, Alvarez Drive Brgy. Sta. Catalina
Minimum Bid Price : 2,111,000.00

LOT 37 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 2,949 sqm. F.A.:1,006 sqm.
Lots 5-B-2-A/ 5-A Dr. Evangelista St,Sta.Catalina
Minimum Bid Price : 7,946,000.00

LOT 38 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 532 sqm. F.A.: 231 sqm.
Lot 1810-H Montojo Dr., Villa Sta. Maria, Sta. Maria Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,062,000.00

LOT 39 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 88 sqm. F.A.: 106 sqm.
Lot 535-E-1-A-1 Atalano Drive, Gov Ramos Ave., Sta Maria
Minimum Bid Price : 279,000.00

LOT 40 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 226 sqm. F.A.: 109 sqm.
Gov. Ramos, Sta Maria
Minimum Bid Price : 647,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 412 sqm. F.A.: 134 sqm.
L2B3 633 Azucena St., Sutherville
Minimum Bid Price : 1,087,000.00

LOT 42 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,267 sqm.
Lot 52-A-8 Interior, Brgy. Talon-Talon
Minimum Bid Price : 444,000.00

LOT 43 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 383 sqm. F.A.: 169 sqm.
Lot 44-A-16, # 236 Salazar Subd., Brgy Talon-Talon
Minimum Bid Price : 888,000.00

LOT 44 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 383 sqm. F.A.: 175 sqm.
Lot 44-A-8 Salazar Salazar Subd., Brgy Talon-Talon
Minimum Bid Price : 941,000.00

LOT 45 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 239 sqm.
Lot 1032-A-2-B Int. of Brgy. Tetuan
Minimum Bid Price : 306,000.00

LOT 46 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 256 sqm. F.A.: 101 sqm.
Lot 1343-X subd. Road, Brgy Tetuan
Minimum Bid Price : 486,000.00

LOT 47 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,800 sqm. F.A.: 102 sqm.
Lot 389-D-2-B Brgy. Tugbungan
Minimum Bid Price : 838,000.00

LOT 48 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,107 sqm. F.A.: 434 sqm.
Lots 26-D-6 & 3-B Alvarez Compound(Thru Pilar Street), Bgy. Zone IV
Minimum Bid Price : 6,699,000.00

**RT LIM**

LOT 49 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 701 sqm. F.A.: 130 sqm.
9432, Municipal Road, Kalpunan
Minimum Bid Price : 303,000.00

**NAGA**

LOT 50 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 951 sqm.
2851, Undeveloped Subd. Road, Aguinaldo
Minimum Bid Price : 65,000.00

LOT 51 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 949 sqm.
2859, Undeveloped Subd. Road, Aguinaldo
Minimum Bid Price : 65,000.00

LOT 52 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 950 sqm.
Lot 2722 Apolinario St.
Minimum Bid Price : 81,000.00

LOT 53 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 962 sqm.
Lot 2708 Apolinario
Minimum Bid Price : 50,000.00

LOT 54 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 946 sqm.
Lot 2746 Bonifacio St., Quirino St.
Minimum Bid Price : 81,000.00

LOT 55 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 920 sqm.
Lot 2479 Del Pilar St.
Minimum Bid Price : 74,000.00

LOT 56 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 954 sqm.
Lot 2907
Minimum Bid Price : 81,000.00

LOT 57 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 940 sqm.
Lot 2835
Minimum Bid Price : 76,000.00

LOT 58 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 956 sqm.
Lot 2988 Provincial Road
Minimum Bid Price : 82,000.00

LOT 59 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 573 sqm.
Lot 2622 Road
Minimum Bid Price : 29,000.00

LOT 60 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 943 sqm.
Lot 2783 Provincial Road
Minimum Bid Price : 76,000.00

LOT 61 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 938 sqm.
Lot 2908 Quezon St.
Minimum Bid Price : 80,000.00

LOT 62 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 931 sqm.
Lot 2501 Quezon St.
Minimum Bid Price : 89,000.00

LOT 63 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 938 sqm.
Lot 2462 Quezon St.
Minimum Bid Price : 76,000.00

LOT 64 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 927 sqm.
Lot 2455 Quezon St.
Minimum Bid Price : 75,000.00

LOT 65 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 943 sqm.
Lot 2452 Quezon St.
Minimum Bid Price : 76,000.00

LOT 66 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 937 sqm.
Lot 2644 Quezon St.
Minimum Bid Price : 76,000.00

LOT 67 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 951 sqm.
Lot 2681 Rizal St.
Minimum Bid Price : 81,000.00

LOT 68 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 949 sqm.
Lot 2656 Rizal St.
Minimum Bid Price : 81,000.00

**KABASALAN**

LOT 69 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 915 sqm.
F-09-09-000714-D; C-4; C-6 & C-1 Lumbayao
Minimum Bid Price : 374,000.00

LOT 70 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,000 sqm. F.A.: 273 sqm.
Lot 1 Private Road, Lumbayao
Minimum Bid Price : 453,000.00

LOT 71 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 940 sqm.
Lot 2774 Bonifacio St., Naga Residential Site
Minimum Bid Price : 80,000.00

LOT 72 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 941 sqm.
Lot 2591 Undeveloped Road, Naga Residential Site
Minimum Bid Price : 80,000.00

LOT 73 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 956 sqm.
Lot 2864 Road Undeveloped, Naga Residential Site
Minimum Bid Price : 82,000.00

LOT 74 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 947 sqm.
Lot 2517 Undeveloped Road, Naga Residential Site
Minimum Bid Price : 67,000.00

LOT 75 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 386 sqm.
Lot No. 11-E-1-B Purok Riverside, Salip Yasin
Minimum Bid Price : 131,000.00

LOT 76 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 5,000 sqm.
Lot 1-X-1 Riverside, Salip Yasin
Minimum Bid Price : 263,000.00

LOT 77 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 604 sqm.
11-K-14 Undeveloped Subd. Road, Salip Yasin
Minimum Bid Price : 121,000.00

LOT 78 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,503 sqm. F.A.: 389 sqm.
2096-J & 2096-I Goodyear Road, Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid Price : 1,634,000.00

**IPIL**

LOT 79 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 748 sqm.
3726, Brgy. Road, Bangkerohan
Minimum Bid Price : 197,000.00

LOT 80 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 600 sqm.
Lot No. 728-A-6-E, Subd. Road, SSS Housing Project Site, Santa
Minimum Bid Price : 179,000.00

## ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE

**SIOCON**

LOT 81 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 612 sqm.
Lot 2-A-2-A Quezon Avenue, Bgy. Of Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 175,000.00

**LABASON**

LOT 82 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 73 sqm. F.A.: 58 sqm.
Lot 2341-A Municipal Road Imelda District
Minimum Bid Price : 54,000.00

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- 25% DOWN PAYMENT FOR DEVELOPED PROPERTIES
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# *Model OFW Family of the Year Award*

**The Award**

The Model OFW Family of the Year Award (MOFYA) is the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration's medium for recognizing the achievements of OFWs and their families in managing the impact of worker migration in family life. It seeks to exemplify for public emulation the best practices of OFW families in optimizing the gains of overseas employment.

The MOFYA also recognizes the successes of OFWs and their families in enterprise development and job generation.

For the awardee/s, the OWWA offers prizes in cash and in kind as well as other gifts and prizes of appreciation offered by private sector donors and sponsors.

**Nominees to the Award**

Only families with either a land-based or sea-based OFW as head can be nominated if they meet the following criteria:

1. Head of family has at least four (4) years of experience as OFW;
2. Known as a solid and stable family in the locality;
3. Has at least a child who finished college;
4. Has managed family finances well, resulting in savings; and
5. Currently enjoying a comfortable life with sustained income from investments or any legitimate entrepreneurial activity.

**Nomination Criteria and Scores**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Length of overseas employment | 20 points |
| 2. Overall family stability | 20 points |
| 3. Success in children's education | 20 points |
| 4. Success in managing family finances | 20 points |
| 5. Success in business from savings or loans | 20 points |

**Nominator**

Religious leaders or groups, non-government organizations, and community-based social or civic organization may nominate candidates for the Award.

**Number of Awardees**

Three model OFW families shall be selected, one each from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

**Start of Nomination and Selection**

Nomination and selection start from the regional level. Regional winners automatically qualify for the national finals. Only one representative per region shall be considered for qualification for the national Award. The deadline for nomination for the first MOFYA was last October 25.

**Panel of Judges**

Regional nominees shall be selected by a panel of judges chaired by the DOLE Regional Director with the OWWA Regional Director, a representative each from the land-based, sea-based, and religious sectors, and major sponsor serving as members.

**National Panel of Judges**

The winners for the Award shall be selected by a national panel of judges chaired by DOLE Undersecretary Danilo P. Cruz and with OWWA Administrator Marianito D. Roque, Fr. Edwin Corros, CBCP Representative, Vic Fernandez, PASEI President, Eduardo T. Mahiya, OPAP President, Josie Francisco, FAME President, and Representatives of Globe Telecom, Philamlife, Sunlife, and AMOSUP, serving as members.

**Award Secretariat**

The OWWA Central Office shall serve as the MOFYA Secretariat, with members selected by the Administrator to perform secretariat functions.

**Nomination Forms**

Nomination forms to the Award can be obtained from the MOFYA Secretariat, 2nd Floor, OWWA Building, corner F.B. Harrison and 7th Streets, Pasay City. Fully filled-up nomination forms must be accompanied by supporting documents such as copies of college diploma, business registration, and endorsements from reputable institution in the community vouching for the integrity and uprightness of the nominee.

**Awarding Ceremony**

The winners of the first Model OFW Family of the Year Award shall be feted in appropriate ceremonies on November 11, 2005 at the PICC. Subsequent conduct of the Award shall be announced by the OWWA.

# The OWWA @ The DOLOP

## OFW Families Take a Bow

The on-going Department of Labor and Employment Opportunities Program (DOLOP) is not only an opportunity to showcase the talents and skills of Filipino workers to foreign employers. It is also a unique chance to focus the limelight to the overseas Filipino workers' families who are the principal reason why OFWs brave employment in foreign lands in the first place. The OWWA, as a major pillar of the Philippine overseas employment program and an active participant at the DOLOP, thus focuses its participation in the event by highlighting its regard and concern for the OFW family in the four-day event.

Today, the last day of the DOLOP, the OWWA, in cooperation with the DOLE's Bureau of Local Employment (BLE), organizes and hosts the 'Jobs and Business Forum for OFWs and their Families', the counterpart of the 1st International Labor Opportunities Forum (ILOF) which was held yesterday.

The Forum, to be held at the Philippine International Convention Center at the Cultural Center Complex in Pasay City, will have five sessions, namely, 1) Jobs in Sunrise Industries; 2) The PhilJobNet; 3) Savings and Investment Options; 4) Ating Alamin: Agri-Business for OFWs; 5) The Franchising Business

OFWs and their families from all over Luzon have been invited to the Forum to learn from known authorities and experts in who will act as resource persons on the above topics.

The Forum will culminate in colorful ceremonies for the OWWA Model OFW Family of the Year Award (MOFYA), the first of its kind for OFWs and their families.

## The 17 Model OFW Family of the Year Award (MOFYA) Finalists

**LUZON**

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
OFW ROGELIO E. SAN ANDRES AND FAMILY

CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
OFW ELDEN ANTONIO Q. SEVERINO AND FAMILY

REGION 1
OFW TITO NAVOR AQUINO AND FAMILY

REGION 2
OFW VILMA GUZMAN PARINGIT AND FAMILY

REGION 3
OFW NICOLAS S. SUBA AND FAMILY

REGION 4-A (CALABARZON)
OFW ISAAC AQUINO DUROLFO AND FAMILY

REGION 4-B MIMAROPA
OFW OSCAR EVANGELISTA RICAFLANCA

REGION 5
JOSE B. BERNARTE, JR. AND FAMILY

**VISAYAS**

REGION 6
OFW JESUS VAGILIDAD CEPEDA AND FAMILY

REGION 7
OFW EDWIN B. CABARDO AND FAMILY

REGION 8
OFW PAULINO B. DIMPAS AND FAMILY

**MINDANAO**

REGION 9
OFW DR. ANICIA A. ALVAREZ AND FAMILY

REGION 10
OFW CARLOS JUNSAY VILLANUEVA, SR. AND FAMILY

REGION 11
OFW GABRIEL B. DAPLIN AND FAMILY

REGION 12
OFW ADELAIDA M. CONTRERAS AND FAMILY

CARAGA REGION
OFW ANDRES RAMIREZ-TAN AND FAMILY

AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MUSLIM MINDANAO (ARMM)
OFW CAMAL ABAGAT CALI AND FAMILY

**THE 3 FIRST MOFYA 2005 NATIONAL WINNERS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LUZON | : | NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION<br>OFW ROGELIO E. SAN ANDRES AND FAMILY |
| VISAYAS | : | REGION 6<br>OFW JESUS VAGILIDAD CEPEDA AND FAMILY |
| MINDANAO | : | REGION 9<br>OFW DR. ANICIA A. ALVAREZ AND FAMILY |

Republic of the Philippines
**Department of Labor and Employment**
Intramuros, Manila

OWWA Center Building, F.B. Harrison
corner 7th Streets, Pasay City
P.O. Box 1617 Manila, Philippines 1300
Telephones: 891-7601 to 24; Facsimile: 833-0187
SMS: 0917-TXT-OWWA or 0917-898-6992
E-mail: opcenter@owwa.gov.ph
Website: www.owwa.gov.ph

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration

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National Power Corporation

**Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid**

**Republic of the Philippines**

**NPC, PSD 2005-013**

**VARIOUS EQUIPMENT, SPARE PARTS, WORK ORDERS INTENDED FOR NPC MAJOR POWER PLANTS**

1. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION, through its approved Corporate Budget of CY 2005 intends to apply the sum of (see schedule under 9) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract as listed below. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected / disqualified at Bid opening.
2. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for GOODS as listed below. Delivery of the GOODS are required by the date indicated in the bid documens. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights to privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183), and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to post qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LRCB) who shall determine as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 PM, Monday to Friday. However, issuance of Bidding Documents shall start on November 14, 2005 from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM, Monday to Fnday. No Bid Documents will be issued on the date of bidding.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount as listed below. The method of payment will be cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on the dates as listed below at National Power Corporation's available function rooms.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before the dates as listed below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash, certified check, cashiers check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit equivalent to one percent (1%) of the ABC; Bank guarantee equivalent to one and a half percent (1.5%) of the ABC; Surety bond equivalent to two and a half percent (2.5%) of the ABC; Foreign guarantee equivalent to one hundred percent (100%) of the ABC, or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accdepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on the dates as listed below at National Power Corporation's available function rooms. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. ITEMS FOR BID

| SCHEDULE NUMBER | PR NUMBER | ITEM DESCRIPTION | APPROVED BDGET FOR THE CONTRACT | BID DOCS. PRICE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DATE OF BIDDING : DECEMBER 15, 2005; 2:00 PM | | | | |
| 13A1 | 3BAC-05-254(ZC) | EXTERNALLY HEATED REGENERATIVE COMPRESSED AIR DRYER & ACCESSORIES | P 2,198,680.00 | P 2,000.00 |
| 13A2 | 3BAC-05-675 (RP) | SHAFT VOLTAGE CURRENT MONITORING SYSTEM FOR 55MW TURBINE GENERATOR (CVM-E) | P 4,000,000.00 | P 2,000.00 |
| 13A3 | 3BAC-05-796 (ZC) | BEARINGS, POS 008 & 027, MATL: DEVA | P 2,000,000.00 | P 1,000.00 |
| DATE OF BIDDING : DECEMBER 16, 2005; 2:00 PM | | | | |
| 13B1 | 2BCF-05-429 (NY) | CASTING OF GRINDING SEGMENT ASSEMBLY | P 1,880,000.00 | P 1,000.00 |
| 13B2 | 3MGM-05-238 (RP) | SUMITOMO PARAMAX REDUCER RIGHT ANGEL SHAFT | P 5,500,000.00 | P 3,000.00 |
| 13B3 | 3TPM-05-272 (ZC) | JOB ORDER, FOR INSTALLATION OF COOLING TOWER VIBRATION MONITORING OF UNITS 1 & 2 & INTEGRATION W/ EXISTING SYSTEM 1 TURBINE SUPERVISORY INSTRUMENT | P 9,950,000.00 | P 3,000.00 |
| DATE OF BIDDING : DECEMBER 19, 2005; 2:00 PM | | | | |
| 13C1 | 5PGP-05-091 (JP) | ASSEMBLY, TORQUE ACTUATOR & VALVE | P 7,969,500.00 | P 3,000.00 |
| 13C2 | 5LGP-05-280 (JP) | J.O. - FOR RETROFITTING OF SHAFT RIDING BRUSHES & VOLTAGE CURRENT MONITOR FOR ONE (1) TURBINE/GENERATOR UNIT | P 3,800,000.00 | P 2,000.00 |

NOTE A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at any available NPC Function Room for the following bidding schedules on:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 13A1-13A3 | December 2, 2005, 9:00 AM | 13C1 - 13C2 | December 6, 2005, 9:00 AM |
| 13B1-13B3 | December 5, 2005, 9:00 AM | | |

10. The NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

*NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION*
*PROCUREMENT SERVICES DIVISION*
*MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT*
*Agham Rd. cor. Quezon Avenue*
*Diliman, Quezon City*
*Tel. No. +632 921 2818*
*rccardeno@napocor.gov.ph*
*Fax No. + 632 921 7906 / 921 3382*
*www.napocor.gov.ph*

**BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-PSD**

(PDI - November 12, 2005)

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TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines

Name of Project: **TESDA's JANITORIAL and SECURITY SERVICES CY 2006**

*40 Janitors and 50 Security Personnel Requirements of TESDA Central Office and TESDA-NCTESD, Marikina Campus*

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) through the National Government Budget intends to apply the amount of the following for payment of contract:

| | |
|---|---|
| Janitorial Service | Php 5,581,814.40 |
| Security Services | 9,840,000.00 |

being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

TESDA now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Janitorial and Security requirements of TESDA. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Invitation to Bidders (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through public bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION, 3rd Flr. TESDA Administration Building and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos Only (P 1,000.00). The method of payment will be in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative. Issuance of Bid Documents shall be from November 14, 2005 to November 25, 2005, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

TESDA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on November 30, 2005, 10:00 A.M. for Janitorial and 1:00 P.M. for Security at Aquino Room, Learning Center, Ground Floor, TESDA Administration Building.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 9:30 A.M. on December 12, 2005. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of:

- Cash, certified check, cashier's check equivalent to 1% of ABC; or
- Bank guarantee equivalent to 1 1/2% of ABC

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be held on December 12, 2005, 10:00 A.M. for Janitorial and 1:00 P.M. for Security at Aquino Room, Learning Center, Ground Floor, TESDA Administration Building. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

TESDA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

*PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION*
*BAC Secretariat*
*3rd Floor, TESDA Administrative Building*
*East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway*
*Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City*
*Tel. No.: 817-40-76 to 80 local 313 to 315*
*Telefax No.: 893-8296*
*E-mail: psd_ocsa@tesda.gov.ph*
*Website: www.tesda.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) **SANTIAGO M. YABUT, JR.**
Deputy Director General, FO
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Nov. 12 & 19, 2005)

## Ateneo Alumni Homecoming 2005 goes online

THE FULL DATA-base buildup for Ateneo de Manila alumni worldwide has gone online with the recent launch of its very own Internet website. Accessible via www.ateneohomecoming.com, the website kicks off preparations for this year's Ateneo Alumni Homecoming scheduled on Dec. 3. All Ateneo de Manila Alumni are encouraged to log into the website to register and update their information on the alumni database. Alumni can also keep tabs on activities and events of the University and various batches. The Ateneo Homecoming website was set up and is being administered by Ateneo High School Batch 1980, organizers of the 2005 Ateneo Alumni Homecoming. It will be turned over to the following batches for their use for the coming homecoming years. Dubbed Labora Dure, Lude Dure (latin for Work Hard, Play Hard) this year's homecoming is presented by SMART and also features jubilarian batches from the Ateneo's Grade School, High School and College of 1955, 1965, 1980 and 1995.

## Inner healing through contemplative prayer

REGINA ROSARI CONTEMPLATIVE ASSOCIATION INC. invites everyone to a seminar on Inner Healing Through Contemplative Prayer (Tapping into God's healing power within us) today and tomorrow, Nov. 12 and 13, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Thomas Aquinas Research Complex (TARC) Auditorium, University of Sto. Tomas (UST), España, Metro Manila. Speakers are the following: Fr. Joey Faller, Sisters Menchi Advincula, OP, MD.; Eppie Brasil, OP; Matthew Brasil, OP; and Sarah Ronda, OP. Participating fee is P1,000 exclusive of food. For reservation, please call 372-5327, 0919-2694286 or 920-2469736.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

Text us your feedback: inquirer hea name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

# 'Gravity tractors' vs killer asteroids

LONDON—NO NEED TO send Bruce Willis into space with a nuclear bomb; the best way to deal with a killer asteroid hurtling toward Earth could be a "gravity tractor."

Two astronauts of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, gently mocking the solution offered in the Hollywood blockbuster "Armageddon," have come up with a deceptively simple plan to pull asteroids off course.

Edward Lu and Stanley Love have proposed that a rocket be launched into space, effectively to act as a giant magnet.

Instead of landing on an asteroid, which is very difficult to achieve, the gravity tractor would travel alongside the asteroid and gradually pull it off course, using nothing more than the gravitational pull between the two bodies.

"This saves you from having to land on the asteroid and then trying to stabilize yourself on a flying pile of rock and debris which is spinning all the time," Love said.

Their plan was published in the science journal Nature.

Lu and Love calculated that, with sufficient warning, a 20-ton gravity tractor could safely deflect an asteroid 200 meters across in about a year of towing.

"By using gravity as your tow line, you can sidle up to an asteroid. Maintain it for a year and that should give it enough nudge to miss the Earth 20 years later," Love said.

The clock is ticking on the chance to put their plan into action.

An asteroid is due to pass close to earth on April 13, 2029, a Friday. But the chances of impact are put at comfortingly long odds of 5,560 to one.

"We know enough about this asteroid to know it is a potential threat but we still have a few more years to watch this thing and get a better handle on what it is going to do," Love said.

### Decide by 2013

Love said: "No panic. I am not losing any sleep over it. But we have to make a decision by 2013 on whether we have to send a mission to detect it."

"Detection and deflection go hand in hand."

In the movie "Armageddon," a doomsday asteroid is on a collision course with Earth and the only way to knock it off course is to drill into its surface and detonate a nuclear bomb.

Bruce Willis springs to the rescue as the countdown begins on life as we know it.

For Love, it was no more than an enjoyable night out.

"It is a great movie and a lot of fun, but check your brain at the door. Most of what they show about asteroids and space ships is pure Hollywood," he said.

*Reuters*

# Cambodia: from killing to healing

**By Rafael R. Castillo, MD**

**MEDICAL FILES**

SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA—IF WE THINK WE are getting a raw deal in our own country, a visit to Cambodia and being refreshed of its history will make us feel how fortunate we still are. When we think of Cambodia, we recall the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge of Pol Pot, who seized power in the 1970s.

During his rule, two million Cambodians, representing one-third of the population, died by starvation, torture or execution. Rice fields as big as soccer fields were converted into killing fields where thousands of Cambodians including women, children and the elderly were buried in shallow graves. Trees bordering the fields held nooses for hanging.

Before the Khmer Rouge retreated in the '90s, they left in the ground 10 million land mines, one for every person in the country. In the streets, one can see a lot of land mine victims, lacking a limb or two, and they shall always serve as a reminder of the country's grim past.

It's said that the Khmer Rouge turned Cambodia to year zero. All establishments, including hospitals, were closed down. After decades of civil war, Cambodia entered a period of stability in 1993 and since then, the Royal Government has begun the difficult process of rebuilding and adequately instituting its services, including health care.

### Challenge of rebuilding

We can imagine the challenges of this rebuilding process. An entire generation of doctors, nurses and other health care professionals was either killed or had fled the country during the brutal civil war.

Cambodia remains poor and has to make do with its meager resources. In the rural areas, People have to rely on local providers, like midwives and the equivalent of our *herbolarios*.

Traveling to clinics in cities like Phnom Penh and Siem Reap is a big problem because roads are bad.

It's amazing how people learn during adverse times to be creative and innovative. Despite the challenges, Cambodia is able to deliver basic public health care services. The government has partnered with various nonprofit health care groups such as EngenderHealth under the auspices of the Reproductive and Child Health Alliance.

Unfazed by the destruction in the public health care infrastructure, the government harnessed the traditional health care system. The alliance trained midwives and traditional birth attendants in life-saving skills.

In rural areas, women prefer to deliver at home and with the additional training of the midwives, it was made safer with less complications such as infections.

The midwives also extended their services to other health problems.

### Volunteer nuns, monks

Buddhist nuns and monks have also volunteered to become community health workers. They are suited for the job because they are highly respected and are influential particularly in rural areas. They can effectively correct myths and misconceptions that lead to unhealthy health practices.

More than 2,500 religious workers have been trained as volunteers, disseminating information on the prevention and treatment of basic health problems. Close to 500 small villages are being served by these volunteers and to date, they've made over 70,000 house calls.

Village shopkeepers also do their share in this health network by selling basic medicines and other health supplies.

The Ministry of Health organized village feedback committees to encourage community participation in public health decision making. Their needs are prioritized and are promptly addressed.

# Asia's best programmers

**EUREKA!**

*Queena N. Lee-Chua*

LAST OCT. 28 AND 29, ALMOST 100 teams from seven Asian countries competed at the Ateneo de Manila University in a five-hour grueling battle of brains in computer programming.

The 2005 Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) International Programming Contest (ICPC) Asia was organized by the Department of Information Systems and Computer Science in partnership with the Mathematics Department.

Founded in 1947 by a group of electrical engineers headed by John Mouchly, co-inventor of the world's first electronic computer ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Calculator), the ACM became a forum for the exchange of information, knowledge and ideas on this emerging industry.

### 80,000 members

ACM is the largest professional society for computing, with over 80,000 members worldwide.

Every year, it gives the A.M. Turing Award (the so-called Nobel Prize for computer science) and the Grace Murray Hopper Award.

The programming contest is one of the activities of the group. It aims to provide college students the opportunity to demonstrate and sharpen their problem-solving and computing skills.

The first contest was held in the United States in 1977.

Last year, more than 4,000 teams from 71 countries participated in 144 regional sites worldwide. From these, 78 teams competed in the World Finals in Shanghai last April.

### 4 years now

The ICPC-Manila is only 4 years old. The first three contests were hosted by the University of Asia and the Pacific.

Dr. Rafael Saldaña, president of the Computing Society of the Philippines is the regional contest director.

Ateneo president Bienvenido Nebres, S.J. said this prestigious contest provided an opportunity for talented students from our country and other regions to benchmark against each other and to grow in skill and cooperation.

Loyola Schools vice president Anna Miren Intal said the contest would help develop our future leaders in computing, programming and development.

### Top 3 teams

During the contest, each team of three students from the same school was given a computer and eight problems to solve in five hours. The team with the most number of problems solved in the fastest time was declared winner.

The top three teams were from the University of Hong Kong, the University of Tokyo, and Ateneo de Manila, respectively. The Hong Kong team will compete in the finals in Texas in April 2006.

Overall third placer Team Linden Boyz from the Ateneo was composed of Allan Espinosa, Mark Punzalan and Christopher John Rigor, who were coached by Dr. Pablo Manalastas Jr. and Dr. John Paul Vergara.

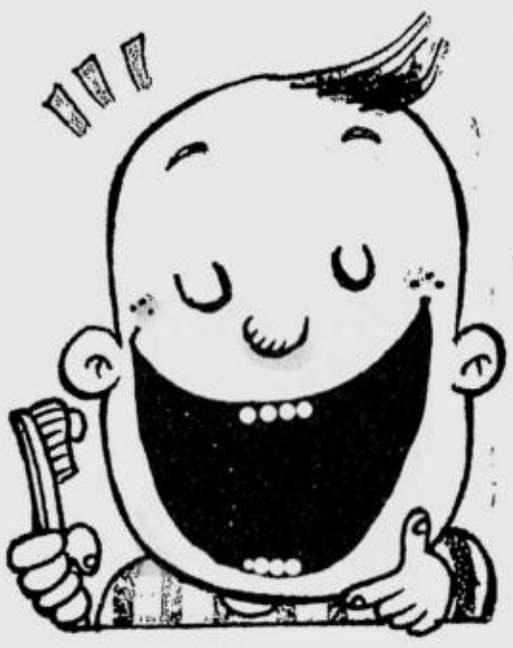
### Runners up

Other Philippine teams who did well were Best Local Team first runner up K-Cube from De La Salle University composed of Kristoffer Dominique Albeus, Kristoffer Raperoga and Kenneth Sze (coached by Shirley Chu).

Second runner up was Persistence from the Ateneo composed of Ramon Francisco Mejia, Kendrick Saavedra and Michael Joseph Tan.

# Why you should care for your child's teeth

**By Mitsy Navales-Antolin, DMD**
*Contributor*



MANY PEOPLE TAKE BABY OR MILK TEETH for granted because they are replaced by permanent teeth. What they don't realize is that neglecting a child's teeth can be harmful. Baby teeth are susceptible to decay as soon as they come out. By the time the decay is noticed, it may be too late to treat and preserve the teeth.

A small cavity can progress into a bigger one and may put your child at risk of severe infection. Dental caries harbor bacteria, which may lower a child's resistance to infection.

Children need strong, healthy teeth to chew their food properly. Large decayed teeth or losing the teeth early also cause a lot of discomfort to a child when he eats. This impairs his ability to get proper nutrition from food.

Dental caries may also affect your child's speech and communication, productivity and quality of life. Some children feel insecure when they don't have teeth.

Also, losing baby teeth early increases the likelihood that the child would have to wear braces. Baby teeth serve as guides for the permanent teeth. When the baby tooth is extracted, the permanent tooth may drift to the empty space, trapping the tooth that is supposed to follow the lost tooth. This can cause the permanent teeth to become crooked or crowded.

### 1st dental visit

According to the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, a child should visit the dentist as soon as his first teeth come out or by his first birthday. You may want to take your child to a pediatric dentist who has undergone extensive training to meet the dental needs of children.

To prevent early childhood caries, do not allow your child to keep his milk bottle all day or all night in his mouth. As soon as he finishes his milk, take the bottle and give him water to wash off the milk residue. Wipe his gums with a clean, damp cloth or gauze pad. This will help the child get used to having something in his mouth before actual tooth brushing is initiated.

Parents should brush a child's teeth daily using a small-headed toothbrush with soft, nylon bristles.

For children who cannot spit yet, use non-fluoridated toothpaste. If you have no choice, use no more than a pea-sized amount of fluoride toothpaste and do not allow the child to swallow it. Avoid using fluoride toothpaste with a nice flavor as children tend to eat and swallow it. Excess fluoride ingested during childhood can cause fluorosis to the developing permanent teeth and may make teeth more susceptible to decay.

### Easy brushing

No matter how resistant your child is to brushing, it is a must that you brush his teeth. An easy way to brush the teeth is through the "knee-to-knee" position wherein two adults face each other with their knees on the same level. The child faces one adult with his legs around the adult's waist; his head is on the lap of the other adult who will do the brushing. This position can help restrain the child and help brush his teeth more thoroughly.

If a problem already exists, it is important that you see a dentist as soon as possible. Dental caries in children progress very quickly.

If the child is unable to tolerate extensive dental treatment, sedation may be an option. Sedating your child can be less traumatic and will enable the dentist to give optimum treatment. You must take the child to a pediatric dentist who has undergone training in sedation and who works with a pediatric anesthesiologist. Sedation is safe if preoperative instructions are strictly followed and the patient is in perfect cardio-pulmonary health.

# Skin patch as alternative to oral contraceptive pill

WOMEN WHO HAVE A HARD TIME REMEMbering to take their oral contraceptive pill every day now have an alternative: the contraceptive patch. Early this year, Ortho-Evra, a light brown square patch that looks like a bandage, was introduced in the Philippines. The patch continuously releases hormones through the skin and into the bloodstream, thus suppressing ovulation.

The patch can be placed on the buttocks, lower abdomen, upper outer arm or the upper body (except on the breasts). While wearing the patch, a woman can work, bathe, swim and exercise, even in humid conditions.

"Remembering to take the pill every day can be difficult for some women. Certain contraceptive pills, such as the progestin-only pill, even have to be taken at the same time every day to reach maximum effectiveness," said family planning expert Dr. Ricardo Gonzales.

A woman places the patch on any muscular part of her body. After one week, she removes it and applies a new one on a different location for another week. After a three weeks, she goes one week without a patch, during which she experiences a withdrawal bleeding similar to menstruation.

The combination of hormones in the patch—estrogen and progestin—suppresses ovulation and thickens the cervical mucus, thus protecting against pregnancy.

The most common reported side effect of the patch is skin rashes at the site of application.

A set of three patches of Ortho-Evra costs P550. The drug is available only on prescription.

**Pranic Healing Lectures set Nov. 13-14 in Subic**

The 4th National Conference on **Alternative and Natural Medicine** with the theme "The Power of Natural Healing" will be conducted on November 13 & 14, 2005 in Subic.

**Dr. Alessandra Grassi Salles** from Brazil will discuss **How to Cure Ailments with Pranic Healing** on November 14.

**Ms. Cory Quirino** will be the Master of Ceremonies of this 2-day affair.

Similar lectures will be presented in the cities of Iloilo and Davao.

**For Pranic Healing Lectures inquiries, please contact**
**Ms. Lirio Ortiz at (632) 635-97-32 to 34**
**or fax (632) 687-4726.**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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2.7&up Roselyn 0920-3843962

RUSH! CONDO nr C5 D'Fort
Lakeview Manors 2BR w/Prkg 1.4M
0906-2621143 • 0917-8212400

**MANILA**

NR LA SALLE TAFT
BnewThse/3stry/3br/3-4tb
maids1-2grgeP4.710M8903461

**MANDALUYONG**

CONDO, BNEW, 09192189817

**PARANAQUE**

1.4M RESORT-TYPE nr NAIA
10% DP to move-in, or 0%, or No DP
1st Class, Bnew • 0917-5234223

**PASIG**

Malayan Plaza 634-1212

MAYFIELD CONDO PASIG
Makro/C5 D Fort 2-4BR RFO
1st Class Resort Type No DP
Rent 2 Own 0927-2401098

MEGAPLZ 2BR Furn Pkg 6341212

**QUEZON CITY**

350T DP neg Assume Bal. 200T
962-8547 or 0916-7454240

**SAN JUAN**

NEAR GREENHILLS
BnewThse/3stry/3br/3-4tb
maids 1-2 grge P3.780Mup 8903461

**VARIED AREAS**

Bnew w/ grg P1.26M F'view
Tagaytay 09194033898

### LOT

**MAKATI**

GUADALUPE NUEVO 3 LOTS
762 SQM CALL 09195998039

**QUEZON CITY**

GloriaIV Subd nr Visayas Ave
444m² 455-4123/456-6854

GRAND VILLAS Top Row
w/view back ATENEO LOTS
hse & lots avble 426-5650
929-1832 • 0919-8212235

★KATIPUNAN Ext Resi lot
nr UP Ateneo 204 to 408m²
P8,500/m² 0918-9235216★

RUSH AYALA HTS 2ADJ LOTS
481m² @ P21T/m² 8896475 ; 4796

**BATANGAS**

Anilao Beach Titled 246m² •Reggie
0917-5342480 • 8234827 no agent

**LAGUNA**

★STA ROSA - BINAN★
NR. LA SALLE & MALL 120m²-UP
4,460m² 96T D/P 4T/mo. 6609372

### MEMORIAL LOT

2prem. lots Holy Cross Nova.
9328970 / 09194033898

Heritage Park II 634-1212

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

2 Farms LOTS nr Clark at Angeles Exit nlng North Xprsway for agribus r resdl lots - 9.6has @ P3.2M/ha & 7has @P2.8M/ha 500mtrs aprt. If bought together @ P2.8M/ha only. Txt or Call 905-2730247.Direct Buyers Only

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### For Restaurant or Office
200 sq. m.
Scout Rallos cor.
T. Morato, Q. C.
Chris 810-7968

### COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

**MAKATI**

SALCEDO VILLAGE VALERO ST.,
7-storey office building
GFA 5286 sqm w/ 34 parking slots
Available Immediately
ZITRO REAL ESTATE
Tels. 818-2781;751-5472
Cel: 0916-5582538

**QUEZON CITY**

BURGUNDY PLAZA KATIPUNAN Q.C.
FRNT ATENEO FA50 m² (res) 75&110m²
(Ideal for SPA, GYM, CALL CENTER)
9289541 / 7313031

### HOUSE

**QUEZON CITY**

2Ssty Town&Country Marcos
Hway Call 9118754; 9137652

Nr Ever Comnwlth nice Thse
3BR2TB Grge 09182002212

### CONDO/TWNHSE

**MAKATI**

1BDRM CTL9 09175335898

Mkt 2Br 1Tb P12.5 Studio P9T
Nice Tel/Prkg/Secu 890-6374

•Perla 1br condo 20T 4121825

•Millenium 2br 25T ff 4121825

**MANDALUYONG**

2BR Wack' 15T 0918-9420180

★1BR 45-54m² BONI/EDSA 15K
W/DUES 09165945185

**PASIG**

•Emerld Mnsn 2BR ff 4121825

RENT TO OWN
RIVERSIDE TOWNHOMES
NEAR EVER GOTESCO PASIG
Tel 09178356891,4213785/86

**QUEZON CITY**

BNew 1BR w/ AC Xanland In
Front of Ateneo 09209705070

QC CONDO 2 BR W/ PARKING
9266653/09179955426

### APARTMENT

**MANILA**

840 P.Noval NR UST Tel
7313035 7361925 9289541

**QUEZON CITY**

2BR P8,500 Call 712-9361

### FOR LEASE

WAREHOUSE
SPACES FOR LEASE
489m² & up 3306951-55 Toss

### WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

1800m² New Meycauayan
Tollgate NLEX 726-4046

## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that OLYMPIA PHILIPPINES, INC. Official Receipt Nos. 107065, 107066, 107067, 107068 have been lost. Any transaction using the above Official Receipts will not be honored by the company.

(PDI--Nov. 12, 2005)

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

**BATANGAS**

1800m² Ideal for Garment /Warehouse Expandable along the Highway loc. at Malvar Batangas Tel. nos. (043) 37782640 0917-9751770 Look For: Rosie Torres

### ROOM & BOARD

BUENDIA PASAY 8345973
SEMI-FURN FREE L/W 1MALE
ONLY COM-CR 4T MONTH

Caridad I-II, Mkti 7580337

Mkt. Condo M/F P1.8-5.2 max w /Prkg FlexiTerm 897-9417

Only P200! Daily, Wkly!!! Sucat, Paranaque 8257524

P150! Manila 7836781 Daily, Wkly 09228321888

### BEDSPACE

Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974697

### BUSINESS RENTAL

Dental Clinic For Sale/Lease
Rm224 Atrium Bldg Makati
•811-4071/823-5047•

### LOAN & MORTGAGE

BUSINES .DCTOR 524-3197 0919-3227420

## TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

### CARS

**HONDA**

02Civic VTI M/T 465T 4267915

**HYUNDAI**

BNEW TUCSON 4x2 AT 938K
2UNITS LEFT 09178433438
09224247524

**MERCEDES**

230c ld. skinis 190T 9297702

**NISSAN**

Nov 00 Nissan Exalta STA
45K KMs, P375T, SunRoof,
0917-8993108

**TOYOTA**

RAV 4 ASSUME BALANCE '04
MODEL NEW LOOK 350T CALL
JUN DEVERA 09176266374

**OTHER CAR BRANDS**

Pajero Trooper Largo Surf
Delica Serena Town-Lite HI
Ace Safari Estima Elf Canter
4-6w etc finance T-In 9120647
/ 09178215832

### BOATS

COASTWISE TUGBOAT FOR RENT 500 HP TWIN ENGINE CALL T5252751 /5249540/8242943

## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

### CARS FOR RENT

Affordable Rent a Car Hiace, Vios, Corolla Low Rates 0920-9518097

CAR VANS 929-2811

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-0296

Cheap Van 9330311;9348411

## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

### CARS FOR RENT

MARIAN CARS•VANS•BRDAL 8969956•8957247

•FRANCIS CAR RENTAL•
ALL CARS U/DRIVE W/DRIVER
T-8334476;7291858 CEL 09196985176

L3 09163443087 / 8738947

CRV Innova Starex 9483535

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

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### CAR LOAN

1% Auto Easy 5344441

1% AUTOLOAN 788-0361

1% Car Lending 656-0140
United Tree Car Loan Corp.

1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% w/out taking car 7262780

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.0% Easy Carloan 889-7759

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/o taking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o taking car 7723810/12

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

### PETS

Don't Risk your family's Security! Times like these need GUARD DOGS. G. Shep, Rott, Dobe available at the PHIL. DOG SCHOOL TRAINS DOGS SCIENTIFICALLY Tel. 721-3736

Excint Dog Sch 0919-2050952

•PUGS•WRINKLED! 3725231

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One of the largest KOI (Japanese Colored Carps) Mart in the Phils. • Over 1000 KOI on display For Sale at any given time. Bring your children to feed the KOI • Paseo de Magallanes, EDSA cor So. Super Hway • 0922689810 86

### BILLIARDS

Sale/Rental/Service 8014494
0464771344 09179870097

## For Immediate Hiring

## Japanese Language Teacher

**The candidate would be:**
- Female, must be between 30 to 45 years old
- Must have a license as a Japanese Language Teacher

**Skills Requirements:**
- Can produce excellent student in Japanese language
- Good skills in reading and writing Kanji is an advantage

Interested applicant must submit their application letter, bio-data with 2x2 picture to:

**MAJESTIC TECHNICAL SKILLS DEV'T & LANDSCAPE CORP.**
Lot 38 Malunggay Road, FTI Complex, Taguig City
(02) 837-9784

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### PCCI

347th & 348th
ALL-BREEDS DOGSHOWS
Tiendesitas en
Frontera Verde,
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave.
Cor. C-5
Ortigas, Pasig City
November 12 & 13, 2005
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
MR. KIM CRYSELL (NZ)
MS. GISELA LESH (AUST)
STRICTLY NO ADDENDUM
SHOW SCHEDULE
Saturday, November 12, 2005
8:00 AM – 12 PM
Registration & Judging of Sporting Grp & Terrier Grp
12:30 PM – 1:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Hound Group / Toy Group
Sunday, November 13, 2005
8:00 AM – 12.00 PM
Registration & Judging of Non-Sporting Grp & Herding Grp
12:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Working Group

SPONSORS:
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MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
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5646593 5897041
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BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
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7220433 • 4123543

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the Sunlife of Canada Insurance plan with policy No. 03008808 of the late Annabelle S. Dalidig was extrajudicially settled to Allan S. Dalidig per Doc 3085 Page 617 Book1 Series of 2005 before Notary Public Raul Macalino of San Fernando., Pampanga
(PDI-Oct. 29, Nov.5 & 12, 2005)

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

New MLM www.lamagel.com/rich
Czar/Tes 831-1112, 0917-8838088

RTW CONSIGN 0917-8830002

*PART-TIME BUSINESS* Work thru phone
Earn up to P20k/mo 375-2644 & 42

### FEMALE

LIC. PHARMACIST Pasig P'que & Bicutan 641-6465 / 641-6387

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MALE/FEMALE

Earn DOLLARS being a BUSINESS EXECUTIVE. College Graduate
0919605089 0

High Quality salesman to sell executive job placements, Php 18,000 plus commision. Fax resume' to Mr. Ruiz at 886-6296

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IMPLEMENTING TASK FORCE

## BULLETIN OF VACANT CONTRACTUAL POSITIONS

(In compliance with RA 941)

(2) **Project Development Officer IV** – (SG 22); Item No. PA-BEAM Stage 2 –PCU-2-1 and 2-2; Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; 3 years of relevant experience; 16 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional (Optional)

(2) **Project Development Officer III** – (SG 18); Item Nos. PA-BEAM Stage 2-PCU-3-2 and PMU-3-1; Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; 2 years of relevant experience; 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional (optional)

(1) **Project Development Officer II** – (SG 15); Item No. PA-BEAM Stage 2-PMU-4-1; Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; 1 year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional (optional)

(1) **Project Development Officer I** – (SG 11); Item No. PA-BEAM Stage 2-PCU-6; Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; experience and training none required; Eligibility: Career Service Professional (optional)

(1) **Computer Operator III** – (SG 12); Item No. PA-BEAM Stage 2- PCU-5; Completion of two years studies in college or High School Graduate with relevant vocational/trade course; 2 years of relevant experience; 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional or Data Encoder (optional)

Applicants for the vacant positions are willing to work in Davao and Cotabato City.

Deadline for submission of application is November 25, 2005.

Please send comprehensive resumé and credentials to the following address:

Dir. Susana B. Estigoy
Philippine Project Manager
PA-BEAM Stage 2 – Project Management Unit
DepED RO XI
REMCO National Center
F. Torres St., Davao City

(PDI-Nov.12 & 13, 2005)

## WE ARE IN NEED OF: CIVIL-STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

* Licensed
* Male or Female, 23-35 yrs. old
* Experience preferred, but not necessary.
* Knowledge of ETABS, STAAD, SAP 2000, SAFE
* Good Scholastic Record

**AROMIN & SY + ASSOCIATES, INC.**
U-504 Pryce Center, 1179 Chino Roces Ave.
cor Bagtikan St., Makati City
8969704-05 / E-mail : arominsy@info.com.ph

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

## NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **CLICKSTREAM MARKETING, INC.** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New ICT Export Service Firm in the Field of Website Design and Development** on a **Non-Pioneer** Status with project/plant site located at **Unit 1503, Ayala-FGU Center, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City**.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CAÑA
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

Industry & Investment Building,
385 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, Philippines
Tel.: (632) 897-6682 Fax No.: (632) 895-3521
(IPG) (632) 895-3981 (IG) (632) 895-3978
(TSG) (632) 890-3051 (AD)
E-mail OSAC@boi.gov.ph Homepage: http://www.boi.gov.ph
Cable address: INVESTBOARD P.O. Box 1872 Makati

(PDI - Nov. 12, 2005)

**POEA**
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 • 722-1155

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION**
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
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☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
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☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

# OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

*13th Death Anniversary*

of Our Dearly Beloved

## Lt Roy Quintin Alcudia Jr.

Holy Mass offered in the following churches:

**St. Michael Chaplaincy**
Global City ..... 6:30 a.m.
**Santuario de San Antonio**
Forbes ..... 12:15 p.m.
**St. Michael**
Fort Bonifacio ..... 5:30 p.m.
**San Nicolas Tolentino**
Guimbal, Iloilo ..... 6:00 a.m.
**Alimodian Parish**
Alimodian, Iloilo ..... 5:30 a.m.

Please pray for the eternal repose of his soul in the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Our Dearly Beloved*

## Norma Sudla Santiago

*Peacefully joined our Lord on November 10, 2005 at the age of 68 after receiving her last Sacrament.*

Her uncles, aunts, cousins, loved ones and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Today, November 12, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City, the urn containing her remains will be interred.

*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.* John 14:6

## REMEDIOS KIPPING JIMENEZ

*died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on November 9, 2005.*

Her children **RITA** and **SPANKY MATA**, **MIKE** (†) and **NITA JIMENEZ**, **MEDDIE** and **JERRY ROSEN**, **JOIE** and **TERRY HERNANDEZ**, **JIMMY**, **ANNA** and **TENG OCSON**, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati.

Interment will be tomorrow, November 13, at Manila Memorial Park – Sucat, after the celebration of the 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish Chapel.

*An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.*

*Always caring...*
**INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

**OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:**
❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

**DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN**

*In Memory of our Beloved*

## SOLEDAD "Choleng" V. SIMBULAN

*who joined our Creator on November 10, 2005 at the age of 97.*

children :
Nora & Owel (†) — Ted & Lorna
Cely & Eddie — Abet & Myrna

grandchildren :
Norman & Dana — Ate Bals
Jojo & Susan — Daisy & Kim
Toniette & Arnie — Marilyn
Tessa & Jhay — Mary Ann
Mimi & Edgar — Sam & Barbara
Richard — Maria & Mike

& great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be tomorrow, November 13, 2005 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## NUEVA ECIJA HIGH SCHOOL GRAND REUNION

CALLING ALL CLASS 1955 GRADUATES OF the Nueva Ecija High School!You are invited to attend our 50th year grand reunion to be held at the NEHS Gym in Cabanatuan City on Nov. 30, 2005. Class 1955 will be the main host of this year's grand alumni homecoming, the 27th BALIKTIPON, of the Nueva Ecija High School Alumni Association. The affair will be highlighted by the annual alumni awarding ceremonies for this year's outstanding alumni. Other participating classes are Classes 1940, 1945 (Diamond), 1965, 1975, and 1980 (Silver). For more information, please contact overall chair, Benjamin E. Tumangan (044-600-1895); Dr. Floriño A. Francisco (0917-764-7276); Dr. Delfin R. Veneracion (0915-561-7043) and Manuel R. Guillermo (0918-909-4944, 894-1350, or email mrg@ksearchasia.com.

## X'MAS PARTY FOR ARAULLO HIGH SCHOOL BATCH 71

AHS BATCH 71 IS ORGANIZING A CHRISTMAS Party on Friday, 16 December 2005, 5PM at the La Corona Hotel, M.H. del Pilar St., Ermita, Manila. Get to meet your high school classmates and friends in a fun-filled party! To join, please call the following: Blesilda Camacho-de Guzman, 632-6031; Susan N. Pasia, 927-4342; Beth Andres, 897-4798; Myra Guiking,-Mendoza, 894-9406; Lynnette Bernardo-Monillas, 400-7261.

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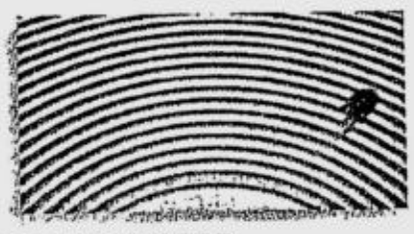

**29 November – 02 December 2005**
**Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City**

**Learn how to see what others may not see, how to heighten your awareness of the value, strength and potential of yourself and others – and overcome the limits that impose, often unconsciously, on your own capacities.**

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:**
Consultants and Leaders in:
- Businesses and corporations
- Community development
- Educational organizations
- Governmental organizations
- Nonprofit organizations
- Anyone who wants to learn how to facilitate Appreciative Inquiry in groups and organizations

**TRAINING INVESTMENT: PHP 25,000** (plus 10% VAT). Should you register before November 10, 2005 you will get 5% discount.

Don't miss the four powerful days of learning and join us for IMPERIAL CONSULTING's **"Appreciative Inquiry Facilitator Training"** seminar facilitated by Nancy Stetson and Charles Miller, the co-developer of AIFT from the United States.

**LEARN HOW TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ABOUT CHANGE**
**For further information, call Alexandra Matysik at Telephone numbers 8451324 or 7596680 or e-mail amatysik@eccp.com**

**PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION** PNOC

PNOC Bldg. VI, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Philippines Tel. No. 893-6001/1320

**INVITATION TO BID**

The Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) invites all interested bidders to bid for the sale/lease of the following PNOC properties:

| Location of Property | TCT No. | Area (sqm) | Minimum Bid |
|---|---|---|---|
| *FOR SALE:* | | | |
| 1 Brgy. Andal-Aliño, Talavera, Nueva Ecija | N-32337 | 396 | P356,000 |
| 2 Brgy. Ibabang Iyam, Lucena City | T-78619 | 4,470 | P671,000 |
| 3 Brgy. Ibabang Iyam, Lucena City | T-78620 | 6,529 | P979,000 |
| 4 Brgy. Ibabang Iyam, Lucena City | T-79047 | 2,705 | P4,923,000 |
| 5 Brgy. Salapungan, Tarlac City | 261227 | 1,185 | P3,182,000 |
| 6 Brgy. Gogon, Legazpi City | 39888 | 8,598 | P13,241,000 |
| *FOR LEASE:* | | | |
| 1 Brgy. Bolo, Bauan, Batangas | T-83679 | 8,962 | P1,725,200/yr. or P143,767/mo. |

Bid forms, bidding guidelines, terms and conditions can be secured after payment of non-refundable amount of P100.00 during office hours of November 14-22, 2005; Monday to Friday; 8:00am to 5:00pm from the Disposal Committee Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Estate Management Department, PNOC Bldg. 6, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. The pre-bidding conference and the public bidding shall be conducted on November 23, 2005 (2:00pm) and December 7, 2005 (2:15pm), respectively, at the G/F PNOC Bldg. 6.

Award of the sale/lease of the above properties shall be based on the **BEST BID OFFER/PROPOSAL** received from the bidders.

The Bidder further acknowledges that he/she has been given every opportunity to investigate, inspect and verify the properties offered for sale/lease to ascertain the actual conditions thereof as well as the status of the titles. The sale/lease of the properties shall be "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" and the winning bidder shall undertake the responsibility to acquire and maintain peaceful possession and enjoyment of the property without seeking the assistance of PNOC. If for any reason the above-mentioned dates are declared non-working holidays, then the above-said bidding activities shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned. PNOC reserves the right to reject any and all bid offers/proposals or to waive any formality thereto and/or to accept any such bids or portion of bids as may be advantageous to PNOC. For inquiries, please call tel. nos 8126071 or 8126209 loc. 2302 or 2308 or cellphone no. 0917-8405994.

(Sgd.) ATTY. PEDRO A. AQUINO, JR.
Chairman
Committee for the Disposal/Utilization
of PNOC Real Estate Properties

(PDI--Nov. 12, 2005)

## ATENEO ALUMNI HOMECOMING 2005 SIGNS UP ENTERTAINMENT

TOP notch entertainers Apreal Tolentino and Asia Agcaoili sign up for this year's Ateneo Alumni Homecoming scheduled on Dec. 3. Witnessing the contract signing are Jun Dalandan of the Ateneo Alumni Office and TG Limcaoco, Gary Legarda, Raffy Jose and Duke Eustaquio of Ateneo High School Batch 1980, organizers of the 2005 Ateneo Alumni Homecoming. Famous for their television and live performances as well as being cited by FHM magazine as among the country's sexiest, Apreal and Asia will serve as show hostesses and will render dynamic song and dance routines during this year's edition of Ateneo's annual concert cum party. Dubbed Labora Dure, Lude Dure (latin for Work Hard, Play Hard) this year's homecoming is presented by SMART and also features jubilarian batches from the Ateneo's Grade School, High School and College of 1955, 1965, 1980 and 1995. More details and registration facilities are at www.ateneohomecoming.com.

## IAME, ATM HOLD CHARTER INSTALLATION

IAME and Associates Toastmasters Club, a group of dynamic professionals and entrepreneurs headed by its charter president engineer Reynaldo A. Carpio with a common goal of enhancing their communication and leadership skills, recently concluded their formal charter installation and induction of officers at the International Academy of Management and Economics in Makati City. Shown are (1st row, from left) Michael Jacinto, ATM-B (Club Adviser); Michael Angelo Chua, DTM (2004 District Governor); Capt. Constantino Arcellana, Jr. (VP-Education); Voltaire Victoria (VP-Public Relations), and Christine Timblique, DTM (Past International Director), (2nd row, from left) Olive Ramos, ATM-S (Club Mentor); Teresita Gonzaga (AVP-Education); Alicia Pascual (AVP-Membership); Evangeline Sawad (AVP-PR and Auditor); Leah Natuel (Treasurer); Emily Chan, CTM (Secretary); Arlene Tanseco (Protocol Officer); and Dr. Renato Josef, ATM-S (Division Governor).

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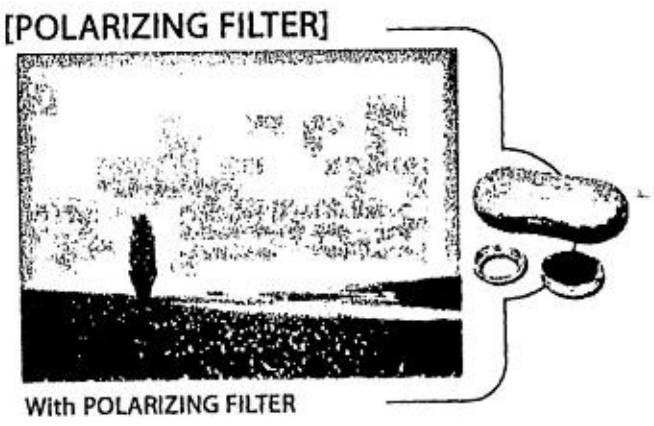

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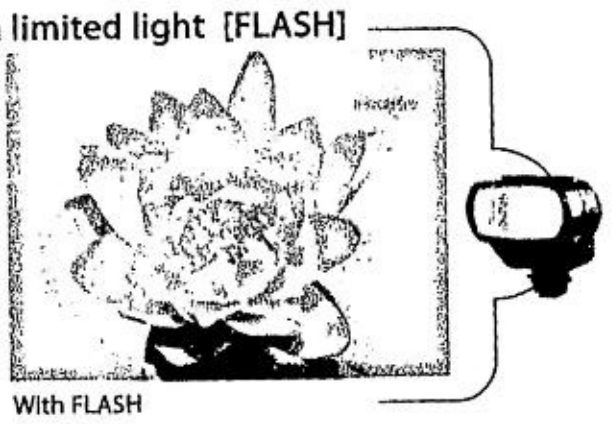

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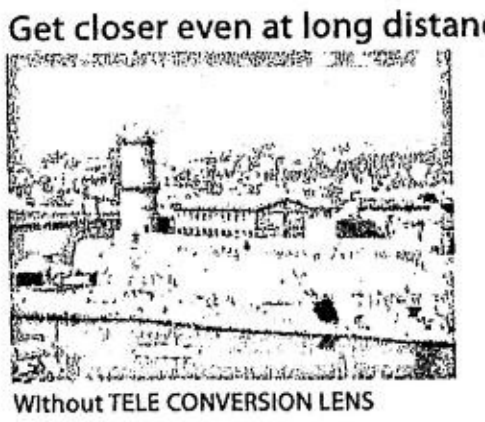

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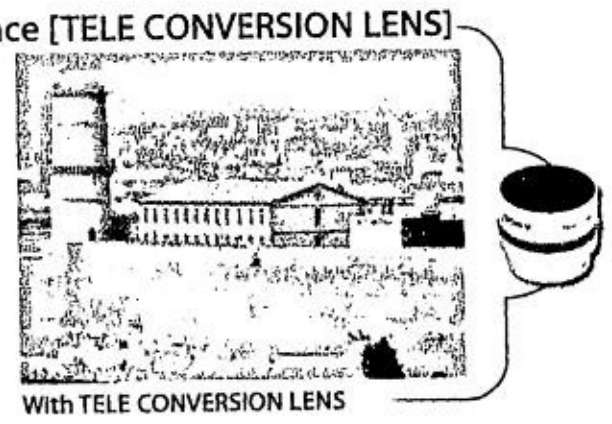

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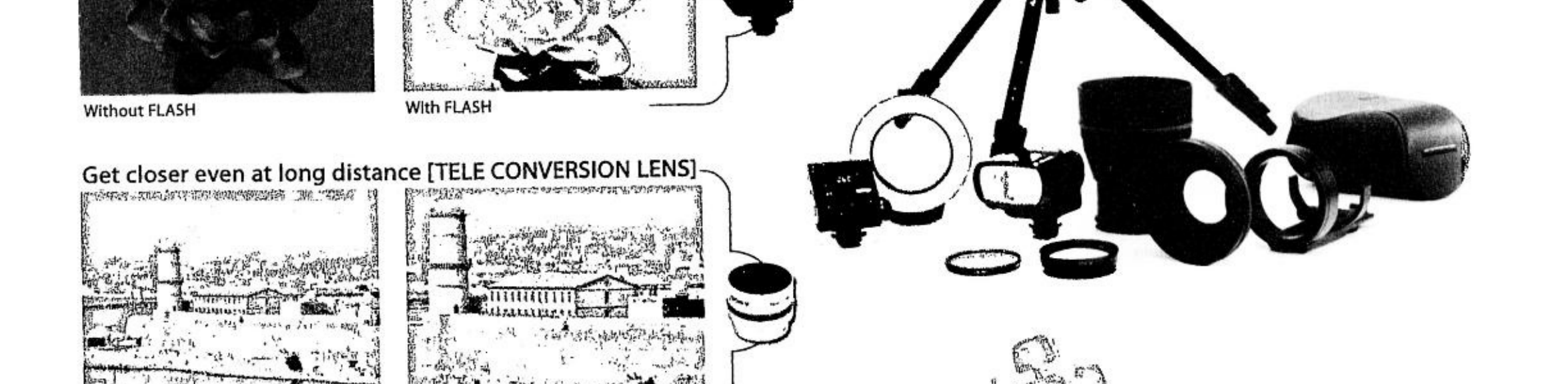
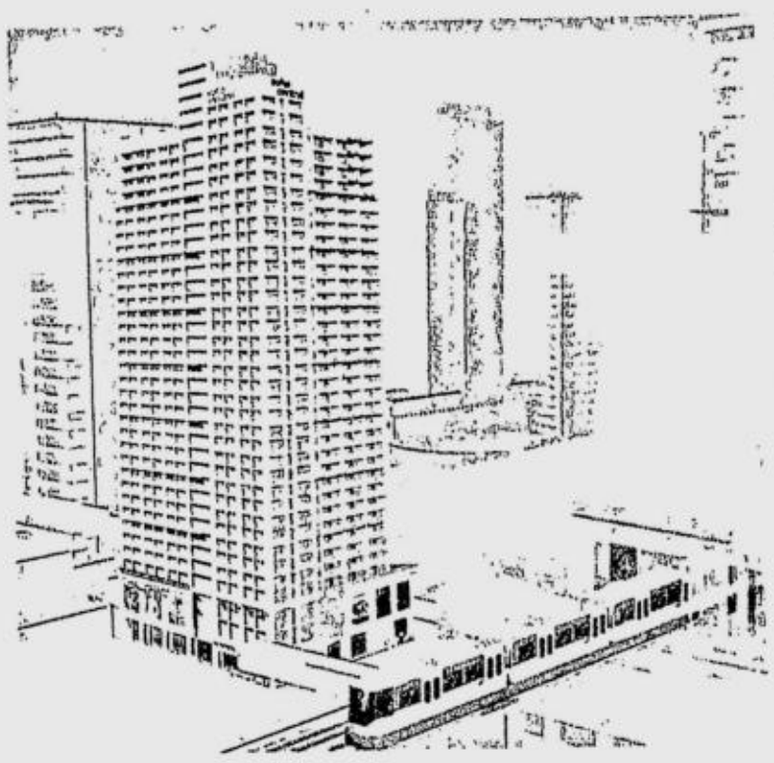


# PROPERTY

# Dev't takes advantage of public transport system

INTERIOR design reflects today's modern lifestyle.



SOHO Central is set to rise at the intersection of Shaw Boulevard and Edsa in Mandaluyong City.

By Charles E. Buban

TRANSIT-ORIENTED development or TOD is a new and exciting way of creating vibrant and liveable communities centered around an established transport system (say, a rail or bus station).

The idea is to allow individuals, couples and even families to enjoy high-quality living while decreasing their dependence on cars for mobility and in the process, help decongest an already-crowded metropolis.

Somehow, the TOC is a developer's reaction to congestion taking advantage of an already existing network of public transportation.

"A development embracing such a concept is an attractive alternative for our clients who don't want to spend a couple of hours each day behind the wheel of their cars," said Jose E.B. Antonio, chair of Century Properties Group and Meridien Development Group, which is currently developing Soho Central in Mandaluyong City in partnership with Greenfield Development Corp.

SOHO Central's bedroom offers a fantastic view of the metropolis.

## Liveliest, most cosmopolitan

Taking inspiration from the Soho lifestyle trend in New York and London, Soho Central is envisioned to be one of the liveliest and most cosmopolitan locations in the Philippines by offering studio, one- to two-bedroom and combined three-bedroom unit configurations ranging from 30 sq m (studio) to spacious 64 sq m (for a 2-bedroom unit).

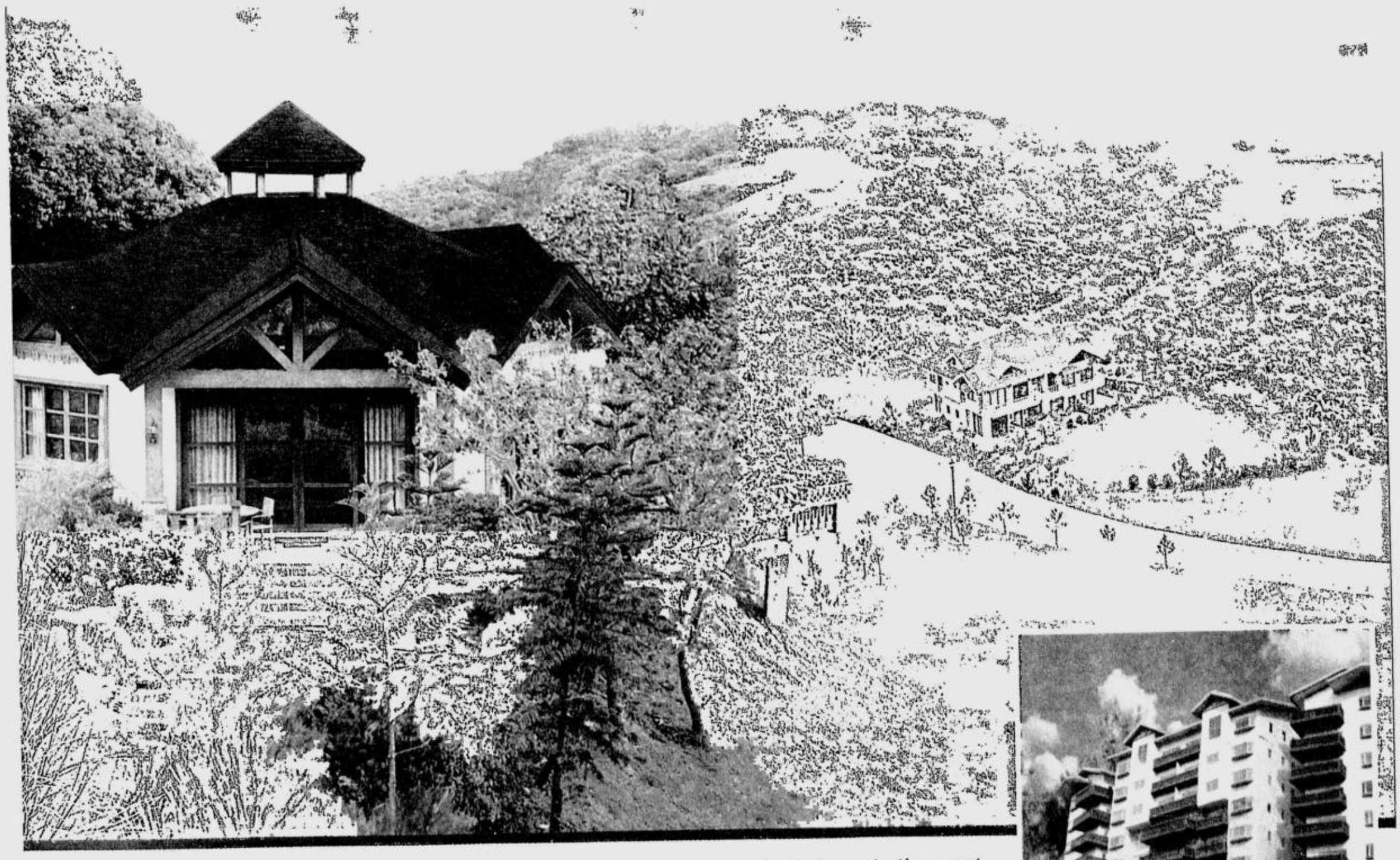
Located within the 24-hectare Greenfield district—a currently developing commercial, business and transportation hub at the corner of Edsa and Shaw Boulevard—the twin 35-story Soho Central is aimed at attracting young urban professionals, small families and couples wanting to enjoy a new level of urban chic living.

Amenities to be offered include a spacious outdoor swimming pool, spa and health care facilities, fitness and training equipment, salon, steam, sauna, massage, skin treatments, a landscaped Zen garden and meditation area, laundry and dry cleaning services, smoke detectors and sprinkler systems.

"Ample parking, function rooms,

DEV'T/ B2-3

*Nestled In Scenic Tagaytay:*
*A Swiss Sanctuary*



Nestled on the rolling landscape of Tagaytay is a Swiss-inspired sanctuary that's home to the great life – Crosswinds. The majestic homes of Crosswinds take design and architectural cues from the chalets of Switzerland with wood patterns, overhanging eaves, stone cladding, and dark asphalt roof shingles. Feel refreshed everyday with the bracing scent of more than 8,000 pine trees across the property. With the constant blowing winds, the cool environment, and the calming quiet of this Swiss haven, there's no place, no home quite like Crosswinds.

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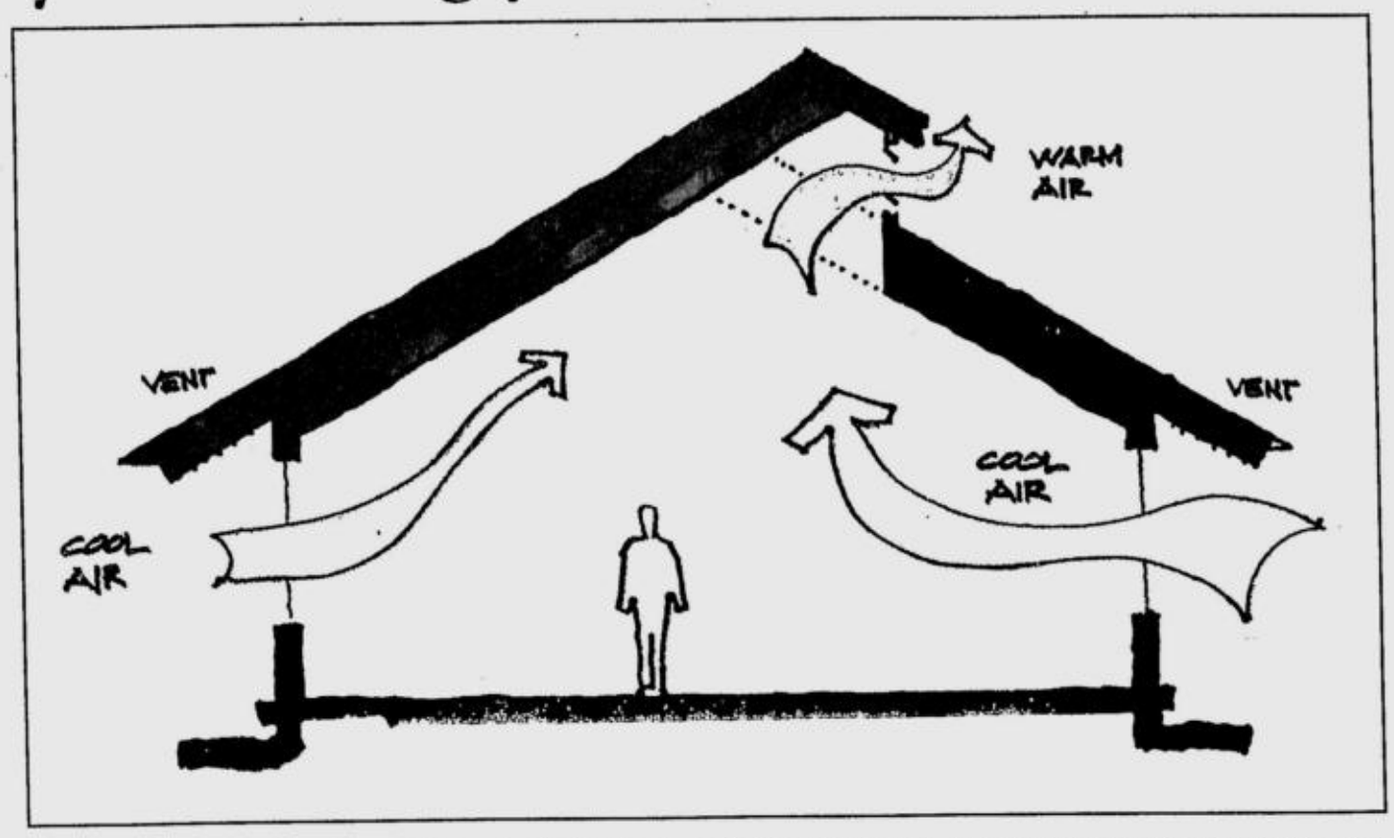
# A simpler way of cooling your home




A FEW MONTHS BACK, I HAD TO PERsonally upgrade my driver's license to include a permit to ride motorcycles. Unfortunately, this meant queuing at a Land Transportation Office for at least three hours. I found myself in a windowless waiting area, approximately 60 square meters, with no air-conditioning, one among about a hundred other applicants. Surprisingly, it was comfortable.

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

*Marcos de Guzman Jr.*

The secret (I had a lot of time to analyze this!) was the existence of two openings: a small stairway leading to the ground floor and an opening through the ceiling to an upper level that was properly ventilated. There was no mechanical ventilation to induce or eject air, merely the use of the basic principles in passive cooling. This was adequate to push the collective body heat out of the room, making it relatively comfortable.

## 2 principles

There were two principles successfully employed: that hot air goes up and that there must be cross ventilation. The opening through the ceiling acts as a vent shaft that releases the warm air accumulating inside the room. Meanwhile, fresh air enters through the other opening.

Air-conditioning is not the only solution to making rooms more comfortable. Especially now that energy costs have gone ballistic, alternatives to cooling must be tapped. Natural and less costly methods should now be adapted, particularly in homes. If you feel that your home is not cool enough, as compared, say, to being under the shade outdoors, then it is time to investigate and apply the basics of Passive Cooling.

Why is it hot inside? Where does the heat come from? Is your roofing made of metal sheets? Does it have a dark shade of paint? Is the interstitial ceiling space inadequate? Is it improperly vented? Is the ceiling space too small? Answering these questions will give you a clue to the proper solution to your home cooling problem.

Metal roofs, although good for shielding us from the rain, do not insulate us from the heat. There are less heat-conducting materials in the market to replace or insulate metal. However, it is not really the type or thickness of insulation materials that matters most, but where and how you install it.

## Real insulation

In fact, it is the empty space between your roof and the ceiling that provides the real insulation. So, it is more effective to put the insulating material above the ceiling, rather than right below the metal roof. Secondly, this empty space must be properly ventilated. Eaves vent would help, but it would be even more efficient to have the opening at the top.

There are several ways of doing this without compromising your protection against the elements, something you can explore with your architect or builder.

The administrator of a retreat center once approached me with a similar problem, saying that their dormitories get uncomfortably warm but that their renovation budget is very limited. I recommended opening the eaves ceiling and replacing these with mesh. This simple approach ventilated the ceiling space and resulted in a pronounced cooling effect.

It is not how high the ceiling is that makes the room cooler but the empty space within the ceiling. However, if you are stuck with a room with an inclined ceiling, with no clerestory window or an escape hatch for the hot air, the room will still be uncomfortable.

A quick fix would be to provide more openings at the sides and an opening somewhere near the top of the wall. In this case, exhaust fans might help too. No, you need not go to the extreme of using a rotating roof monitor, like what you see atop factories, although this option is very effective. Not everyone knows that those rotating monitors are propelled merely by escaping heat accumulating in the ceiling and not by electricity.

The diagram explains the concept further.

## Improving the roof

To supplement the treatment of ceilings, improving the roof is likewise important. The use of clay or cement roof tiles would considerably lower your room temperature. However, this can only be done on existing roofs with adequate pitch of at least 23 degrees and if the structural framing can support it.

In most cases it's doable, again something your architect or builder can help you to analyze. It may be costly, initially, but well worth it and quite energy-efficient. As with clothing, the lighter colors absorb less heat, so it is best to use a lighter shade of paint or even reflective silver on your roof.

As for the room itself, having two or more openings (doors, windows, or a combination) for every livable space would help enable the continuous flow of air.

Have you noticed that in two-story houses, the ground floor is much cooler than the second floor?

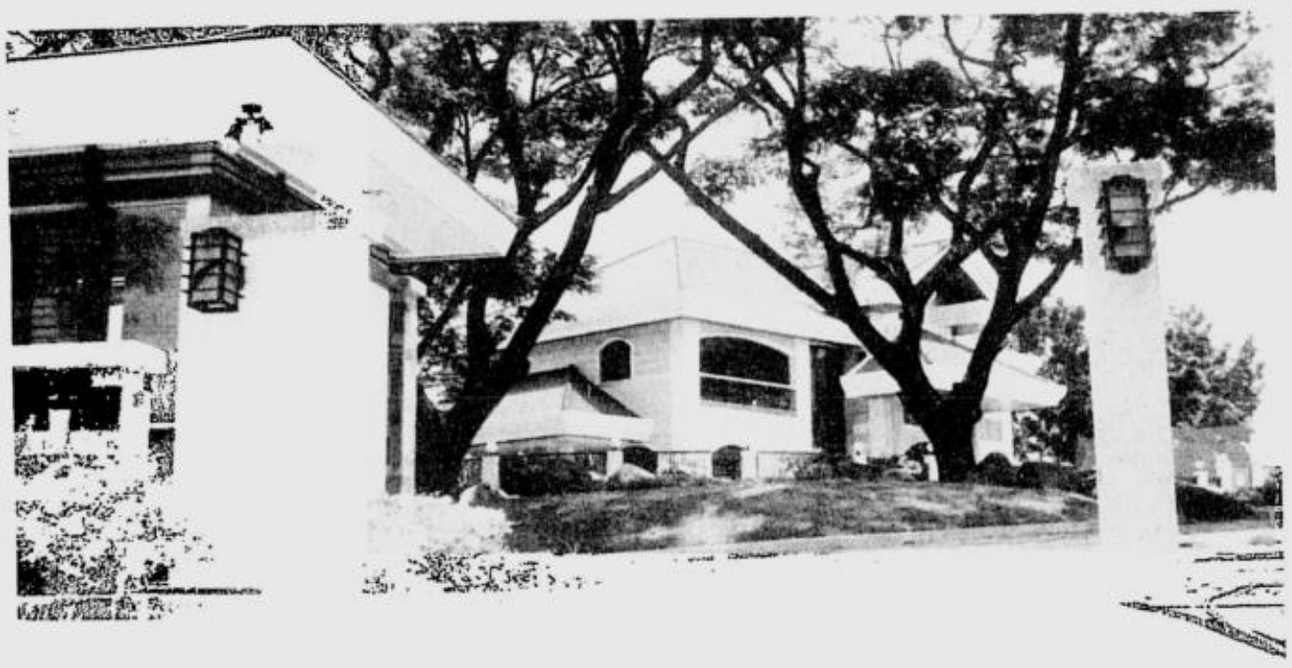
## Cooling space

That is obviously due to the "cooling space" of the first floor ceiling. However, some rooms directly below roof decks tend to be hot. The solution could be as simple as covering the deck floor with loose flat stones like araal or luna stones. This will shield the slab underneath from the scorching sun.

I would like to emphasize that the stones should be loose and not cemented to the deck to avoid heat transfer from the stone to the slab. The less contact it has with the slab, the better. In some countries, flat roofs are protected from the heat using oyster shells, which is both inexpensive and highly effective. Others diffuse the heat by providing water features, such as fountains, waterfalls and water curtains, strategically placed where air passes through. These are used profusely in Bali, Indonesia.

Finally, we must not discount the importance of proper planning and house selection. The most comfortable areas are those facing north or east. A western or southern orientation is ideal for drying areas. Some designers place garage, toilets and kitchens on the west side to protect the living areas.

So, before buying an air-conditioner and conditioning your mind to the additional burden of higher electric bills, take the time to analyze your home. There just might be a better, more economical solution!



**LOT owners started to build two- to three-story residences with contemporary themes that combine form with function in Ayala Hillside Estates in Diliman, Quezon City.**

# Postcard-pretty views from QC subdivision

IN A POCKET OF QUEZON CITY that has defied unsightly intrusions of progress, an upscale community featuring homes with the most scenic views in the metro is rising. Drawn by the picture-pretty vistas of rolling greens and blue skies, lot owners began building their homes in this Ayala Land development even before all 240 lots were sold out.

The 22-hectare Ayala Hillside Estates was carved out of a portion of what was formerly the Capitol Hills Golf Club. According to project manager Joseph Romero, the subdivision's main draw was the proposition of having a home on what was formerly a fairway while still being within reach of Metro Manila's business districts.

## Showcases

With lot sizes ranging from 400 to 800 square meters, the homes now under construction have become unintentional showcases of the latest amenities and fixtures on the market. Romero adds that most of the residents in the area are successful professionals, entrepreneurs and industrialists who prefer to maintain a low profile.

The first home began construction in mid-2004. Other homeowners soon followed suit. Currently, one home has been completed and is now occupied while five other residences should be finished before the year ends. Romero says 15 to 20 new constructions are expected in 2006.

Most of the homeowners are building two- to three-story residences with contemporary themes that combine form with function. Quite a few feature sleek lines and a lot of glass. Others are Mediterranean-inspired and colorful.

Romero discloses that security, maintenance and other systems are now in place and fully operational. The central amenity of Ayala Hillside's first phase, the 3,000-sq-m Day Garden intended for daytime activities, is set to be completed soon. It features a swimming pool, basketball court, children's playground, palm court and pavilion with a Contemporary Asian theme. Another clubhouse intended for evening activities will be constructed in another phase of the community.

## Mature trees

Laid out as a series of pocket neighborhoods connected by a main road, Ayala Hillside Estates is also distinguished by the mature trees that have been preserved particularly in one area of the subdivision with larger lots. The stately trees are complemented by an Asian landscape dominated by greenery which offer texture and rhythm to the landscape.

According to Romero, Ayala Land exerted great effort to maintain the mature trees. In some instances, the trees were even balled out and relocated, a tedious and costly effort. "The old trees lend a distinct sense of place to the area," he observes. "Thus, the expense was well worth it."

The premium residential development in the heart of Quezon City is minutes away from prime institutions of learning like the University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University and Miriam College. Groceries, malls and other recreational facilities are just a few minutes' drive away.

For more information about Ayala Hillside Estates, visit www.ayalaland.com.ph or call 848-5000 or e-mail ayalasales@ayaland.com.ph.

# Modern high-rise innovation set to tower over Makati

ROCKWELL LAND CORP., ONE OF THE country's premier real estate developers, has recently appointed Miami-based Arquitectonica, as the design consultant for its latest signature residential towers, One Rockwell. This development, situated at the center's gateway on Rockwell Drive, shall be the epitome of Rockwell lifestyle and will raise the bar once more for premium, unmatched architectural design for prime residential property.

The area was formerly known as the Rockwell Lifestyle Center, a one-stop shop for the new residents of Rockwell. It also housed the first two tenants of Rockwell—Bibliarch and Starbucks. To date, the location is a favorite breakfast nook for Rockwell residents and patrons and is currently where Rockwell's executive offices are located.

**ONE Rockwell, situated at Rockwell Center's gateway on Rockwell Drive, is envisioned to become the epitome of Rockwell lifestyle.**

## Designs

Recently, Arquitectonica founding principal, Bernardo Fort-Brescia flew in from Miami to attend a workshop with Rockwell executives led by their president, Tong Padilla. He presented the designs for the twin-tower development with distinct geometric forms that afforded future Rockwell residents the best views of the metro.

One tower assumes an angular shape with four buildings arranged like a lightning rod with a total of seven corners which provided a variety of perspectives or "aerial backyards" for its future residents. The curvilinear structure of the other tower provided a high contrast that made the Block 10 project really interesting. This building is made up of two halves that seem to slightly slide away from each at the center to create a distinct vertical line on either side of the building.

One Rockwell, will retain Rockwell Center lifestyle with the retail mix at the ground floor, quaint coffee shops and al fresco dining. Landscape architecture will play an integral role in creating the overall "feel" of being at home in Rockwell.

## World renowned

Arquitectonica is a full-service architecture, interior design and planning firm whose designs are world-renowned and have continued to be the benchmark for style, innovation, functionality and creativity. Their award-winning designs include famous structures such as the American Airlines Arena in Miami, the Bronx Museum of Arts, the headquarters Banque de Luxembourg, the Westin New York at Times Square, and the Festival Walk in Hong Kong. They provide unique, cutting-edge, innovative, modern and excellent architectural designs.

Their experience in architecture and design projects runs the gamut from resorts and casinos, hotels, schools, luxury condominium towers, retail centers to office buildings, embassies, opera houses, symphony halls, television studios and bank headquarters. These designs, more often than not, end up being exhibited in major museums all over the world because they incorporate state-of-the-art technology and positive imagery, at the same time meet the functional requirements of their clients.

Arquitectonica's Philippine counterpart is Pimentel Rodriguez Simbulan and Partners. PRSP started offering its expertise in 1992 providing comprehensive architectural services to their clients. Some of their projects are the Citibank Tower in Salcedo Village, Citibank Cards Center in Libis, The Podium in Mandaluyong, and the Tagaytay Midlands Clubhouse in Tagaytay City.

# *Realty appraisers laud new land title mapping system*

PRIVATE REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS real estate appraisers groups have joined hands to further professionalize land valuation and appraisal in the country through the innovative Geographic Information System land title mapping service earlier launched by the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba).

During the recent convention of Creba and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, the Philippine Association of Appraisers (Para) and the Society of Philippine Review Appraisers (Sopra) signed with Creba an agreement to actively promote the use of the eCreba GIS title maps by appraisers and other real estate industry players.

Para president Victor T. Salinas and Sopra president Carol Alvarez hailed the GIS title mapping system as essential to speedily generate a relatively more accurate and objective land-valuation appraisal, facilitate the investment decision-making and land development processes and contribute to the professionalization of the valuation-appraisal sector.

The computerized land title mapping system, known as eCreba Comprehensve Land Survey System (ClaSS) produced by Creba-GSI Inc. (CGI), utilizes the latest in GIS technology and a comprehensive database of officially sourced land information nationwide to produce individual land title maps.

A far cry from the traditional title mapping, the ClaSS map displays not only the lot plan and technical data including technical defects of the title, if not, but also a map of the municipality pinpointing the land's geographic position, plus a total of 23 valuable data layers to include the land parcel's geophysical attributes, the economic attributes and attractions, and valuable insights on investment potentials and regulatory aspects that impact on land use.

# New Davao mountain spring resort now open to public

WATER in the pool comes from a spring.

LOCAL AND FOREIGN TOURISTS CAN now flock to the new Davao mountain spring resort that puts them in the center of natural beauty and wonder, while it provides modern comforts and luxuries inside their private cottages.

There is no better place to spend some time with your inner self, away from the hustle and bustle of urban living, than amid the luxurious facilities and relaxed ambience at Loleng's Mountain Spring Resort.

Nestled at the footstep of Mt. Talomo, Loleng's Mountain Spring Resort is a private resort that is now open to the public. It is the brainchild of Dolores Pilapil-Torres, an 82-year-old businesswoman, philanthropist and one of the pioneers of Davao City. (The resort takes its name from her nickname "Loleng.")

The area encompasses about 40-hectares of beautifully landscape rolling terrain. When asked why they decided to transform their family's property and into a resort, Willie Torres warmly replied, "The beauty, trees and scenery would have been wasted if we didn't develop it into a resort for people to relax and enjoy."

## Spellbound

Upon entering Loleng's (only an hour from the city), you will be spellbound by the Benguet pine trees planted contiguously on the side of its wide road. The entire community is surrounded by lush foliage, cooled by natural breezes, and boasting of a breathtaking view of Samal Island, Davao Gulf and Davao City which anyone would agree is indeed a treasure.

Loleng's boasts of seven modern exquisite homey cottages, each one having access to spectacular views and natural setting regardless of which cottage you take. Cottages 1, 2 and 3, for instance, cost P2,400 per night with air-conditioned bedroom. Each has a comfortable bed, cozy living room with TV, kitchen, hot and cold shower and can accommodate a maximum of four persons.

The very spacious and elegantly appointed one is Cottage 4. It has a veranda facing a swimming pool and enjoys the same amenities but can accommodate six persons.

## For big groups

If your group is a big one like 35, the non-airconditioned guest house can accommodate your needs. It is also equipped with a huge living room, a spic and span kitchen as well as a hot and cold shower. Big groups can also choose the Family Cottage (maximum of six persons, Dormitory 1 (maximum of 12 persons) or Dormitory 2 (maximum of 24 persons), all of which are equipped with nice amenities.

LOLENG'S Mountain Spring Resort has seven modern exquisite homey cottages, each one having access to spectacular views and natural setting.

Wherever you stay, you can avail yourself of Loleng's natural springs, brimming with mountain springs' crystal water flowing unceasingly into the swimming pool, where guests can swim and refresh. If you are a sports enthusiast, don't forget to bring your racket or ball, because the resort has a tennis and basketball court. Or if the water is your chosen venue, Lake Bering is a great place for fishing or boating.

And for the kids, of course, Loleng's has designed a playground where they can romp around amid the fresh air and cool temperatures provided by the trees which are abundant in the tropical forest surrounding the resort. Providing dining with a view is Maia's Café, which offers an enticing menu of gastronomic delights.

Let the friendly staff help you plan your stay at Loleng's Mountain Spring Report and make the most of your vacation experience. For reservations and inquiries, please call (082-) 221-1099 0r fax (082) 221-8034.

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# Development takes advantage

From page B2-1

a business center and two floors of commercial and retail shops will be provided as well," revealed Antonio.

All these luxuries and conveniences come for as low as P9,000 a month (interested clients may visit Soho Central model units located at the ground floor of the newly renovated Edsa Central mall in Mandaluyong City).

## RP's first TOD

Being the first TOD in the country, Soho Central brings the Metro Rail Transit system within reach. By connecting directly to the Shangri-La Plaza-Shaw MRT station, the resident is quickly linked to almost all important destinations in Metro Manila.

Antonio also revealed that as a unit owner at Soho Central it affords one to become a privileged member of Soho Club, which is designed to create a unique community and select network of people passionate about work and leisure.

The privileges that one may enjoy as a Soho member include tickets to movie premieres, complimentary gifts, invitations to art exhibits, open bar parties and special sale and discounts at selected stores and restaurants.

Indeed, the developer of Soho Central believes these amenities and privileges put balance between work and pleasure, which is key to the success of modern and very mobile society.

# Fraser Place opens doors to new owners

FRASER PLACE MANILA–FORBES Tower, the premier serviced residence in the country, is on the verge of an important milestone as its present owners—UCPB and Forbes International—announces the sale of Forbes Tower's individual units.

General manager Christopher Bong says Fraser Place Manila is riding on the crest of a very successful year and continues to enjoy the patronage of the most discriminating travelers who wish to enjoy a rare mix of business and pleasure.

Says Bong: "Fraser Place Manila has already established itself as the most sought after home for long-term travelers who wish to experience the comforts and the luxury of a top-class serviced residence. That's why we are currently enjoying 95 percent occupancy."

## Spacious units for sale

"Fraser is proud to be able to enhance the owners' asset, thus making the sale viable. With the sale of the property, it retains its management contract to continue overseeing the residences' operations and maintenance. Thus, the new owners can expect the same impeccable service and quality that Fraser Place Manila has come to be famous for," he adds.

Up for sale are Forbes Tower's spacious units ranging from two- to four-bedroom suites that are furnished with the most luxurious furniture and decor that follow the Zen-inspired design scheme.

Each unit is outfitted with state-of-the-art amenities such as jet pools, multipoint showers, cable network, television and the latest audiovisual system for the guests' ultimate pleasure. The gourmet kitchen has full-sized appliances and a complete set of glassware, cutlery and crockery to indulge the culinary inclinations of long-staying guests.

## Realty services provider

At the helm of the sale of Forbes Tower is Colliers International Philippines, an affiliate of Colliers International. As the country's leading real estate services provider, Colliers International Philippines will soon open Fraser Place Manila's door of luxury to tasteful buyers who wish to share the residences' tradition of high quality, luxury and profitability.

As property representative, Colliers International Philippines relies on its intimate knowledge of local markets and its creative and innovative leasing strategies and marketing campaigns to achieve maximum return on its clients' investments.

Situated right in the central business district of Makati and consisting of twin handsomely built towers of 42 and 31 stories high, Fraser Place Manila aims to satisfy the different lifestyles of long-term expatriate businessmen, jet-setting executives, young couples, families and even children.

## Topnotch facilities

It prides itself of the topnotch facilities which include a business center with private workstations, casual dining and resident's lounge, a fully equipped gym with sauna facility, an outdoor swimming pool and jet pool.

Fraser Place Serviced Residences in Manila represents the impeccable service and quality of Fraser Serviced Residences, which also offers veritable homes away from home in the United Kingdom, Singapore, Korea, Thailand and Manila.

The Faser Collection includes The Fraser Suites in Glasgow, Scotland; Harmonie, Paris La Defense; Kensington, London; Insadong, Seoul; Singapore Fraser Place; Canary Wharf and Chelsea, both in London; Forbes Tower, Manila; Shekou, Shenzhen; Singapore Corporate Residences; Futian, Shenzhen; Holt Residences, Singapore's Prince of Wales Terrace, London; and the Boutique Resort in Fisherman's Village, Thailand.

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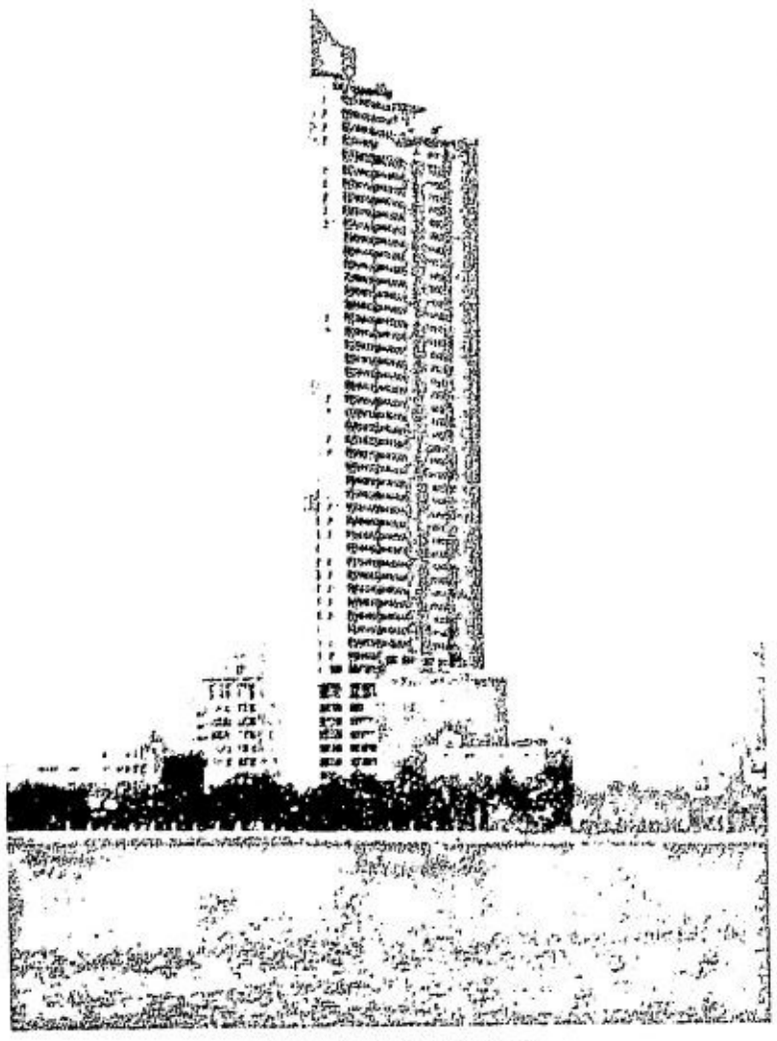

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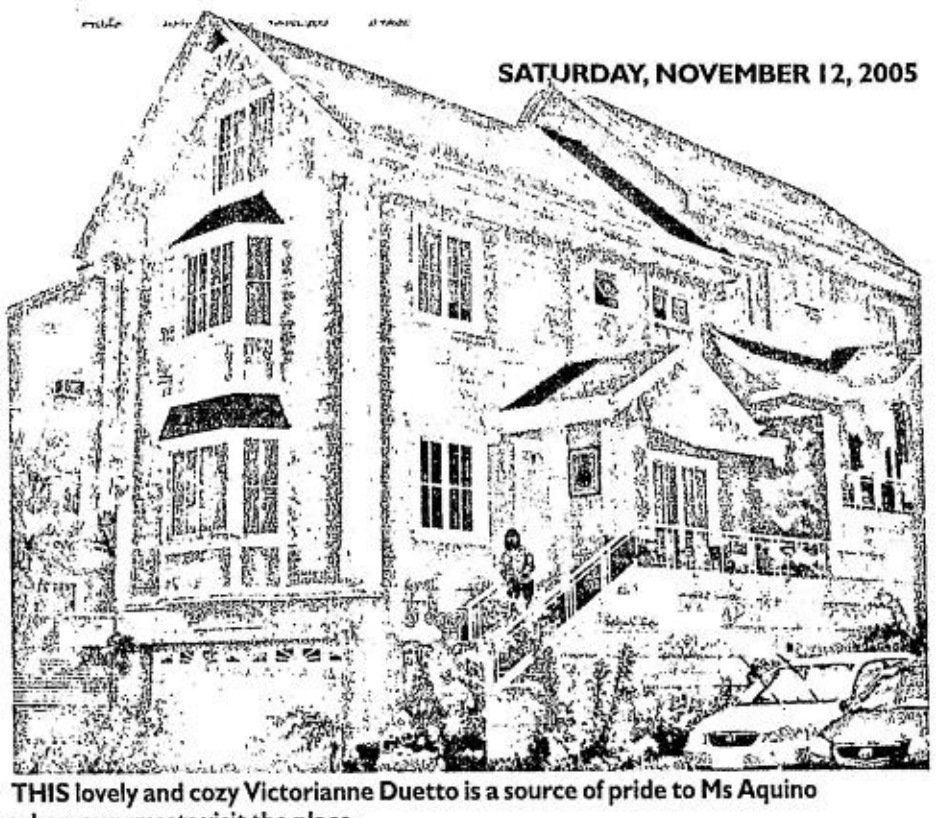
# Capturing love that lasts a lifetime at Victorianne



THIS lovely and cozy Victorianne Duetto is a source of pride to Ms Aquino whenever guests visit the place.

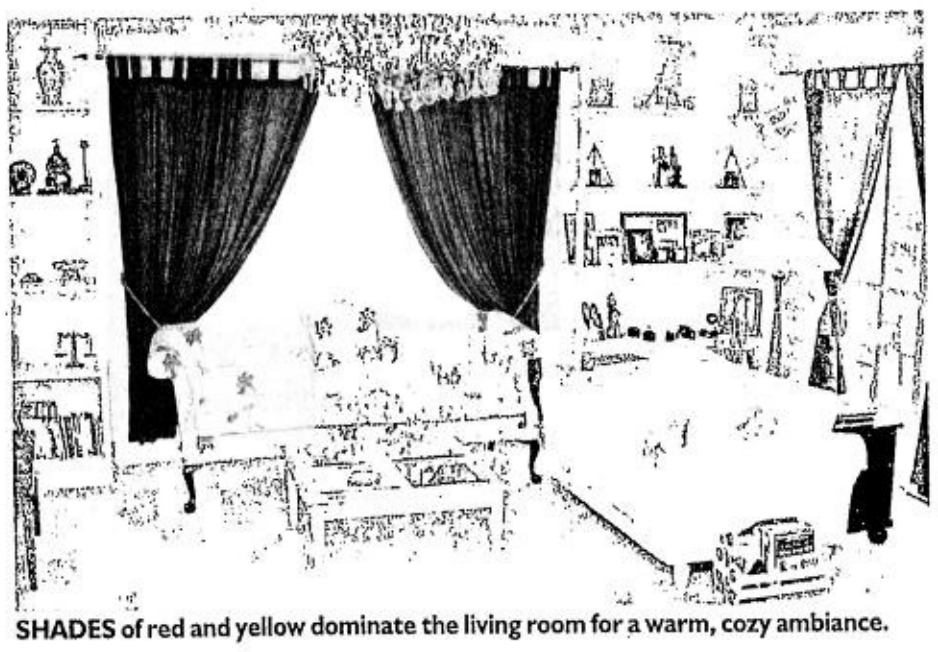
IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT LOVE AT first sight is the only way to love at all. One look seems all it takes to seal a lifelong relationship. But if love comes with the first look, the lifetime commitment comes from not being able to live without each other's love and support.

Businesswoman Princess Zulueta Aquino was house-hunting when she came across the Victorianne in La Posada—a neo-Victorian-inspired row of picture postcard homes conceptualized by maverick real estate developer Brittany Corp. She was, in fact, meant to see a different property when a navigational error led her straight to these delightful homes that immediately evoked happy childhood memories. If love at first sight is not a myth, this was definitely it!

Apparently, she stumbled into a home that is everything one would like to have in a long-term relationship. The San Francisco-inspired architecture responds to her discriminating taste for the finer things in life. The well-crafted neo-Victorian home provides protection, security and comfort.

And with the property set in the midst of an ingeniously master-planned community, she has no doubt about living there for a long, long time. Truth be told, it is her doll house come to life but with the support of a firm foundation laid out by Brittany Corp.

"Welcome to my doll house!" I would tell my friends when they come to call on me," explained Ms Aquino. "And soon enough, they would ask me if they could visit my doll house again because they don't only find it very pretty but very cozy as well."



SHADES of red and yellow dominate the living room for a warm, cozy ambiance.

## Interior design

This enchanting home's interior design was largely left in the capable hands of her daughter who, she disclosed, will eventually become the mistress of the house. Her daughter, Misty Viola, is an interior designer working for a high-end architecture and design magazine.

The task, though not an unhappy one, had its share of difficulties. Misty revealed being partial to clean, modern lines. Her mother, on the other hand, favored the old European styles. Much of the furniture came from a previous home and consisted largely of highly cherished antiques that Ms Aquino has been collecting for years. These items were "nonnegotiables" and part of the designer's task was to find a way to integrate these precious possessions into the new home. The result was a happy mix of the two—crafted in such a way that the opposing styles would not clash.

## Living room

Upon entering, the warmth of the yellow walls immediately evokes coziness within the room. To the left is the living room with its bright red curtains literally popping from the windows in contrast to the yellow walls. Shelving units flank either side of the bay window and is filled with knick knacks that Ms Aquino has collected from years of traveling. A piano is set immediately beside the door and making up the rest of the living room are two sofas—one antique and one modern—and a wingback chair in a deep green shade.

Toward the right side of the door is the dining area dominated by a large mirror with bronze details. Below it is a service cabinet with matching tray tables on either side. Another antique china cabinet is set

THE PLACE where Ms Aquino loves to relax and enjoy the view within the community.

at an angle beside the sliding doors leading to a small veranda.

The kitchen is a stark contrast to the rest of the rooms on the first level. It is painted in Mediterranean shades of blue and yellow, and every last square inch is a reflection of the modern style of design. Though small, it is well-equipped with more than just the kitchen essentials. It is well-ventilated to ensure that the rest of the house would not smell like a kitchen. The sliding doors allow the cook a breath of fresh air along with a chance to wave hello to the next-door neighbor whose kitchen window is directly across.

## Bedrooms

On the second floor are the bedrooms with the master suite immediately to the right of the stairs. The bay window serves as the focal point of this room. A large wood-framed bed with an orange sofa at its foot provides a comfortable view of the television that sits on an ornate camphor chest that Ms Aquino inherited from her grandmother. The room also has its own private toilet and bath inspired by the soothing qualities of the Japanese Zen tradition.

The attic, however, is where all the action takes place. Painted in a light blue shade, it is the hideaway of Ms Aquino's grandson M3. The room, with its sloping walls, is divided into two areas. The play area is a veritable toy room with every imaginable children's play stuff stashed within its confines. Glow-in-the-dark stars were even pasted on the walls for an added playful touch. But Ms Aquino's antique frenzy has influenced this room as well. The child's mother can rock her son to sleep in an antique rocking chair and keep his clothes in small, antique wood chest of drawers.

## Reasons to move in

While the home itself is more than enough reason to move in, Ms Aquino discovered soon enough the other advantages of living at Victorianne. Working in Quezon City, the home provides a welcome retreat from the hustle and bustle of the city without having to give up the modern conveniences.

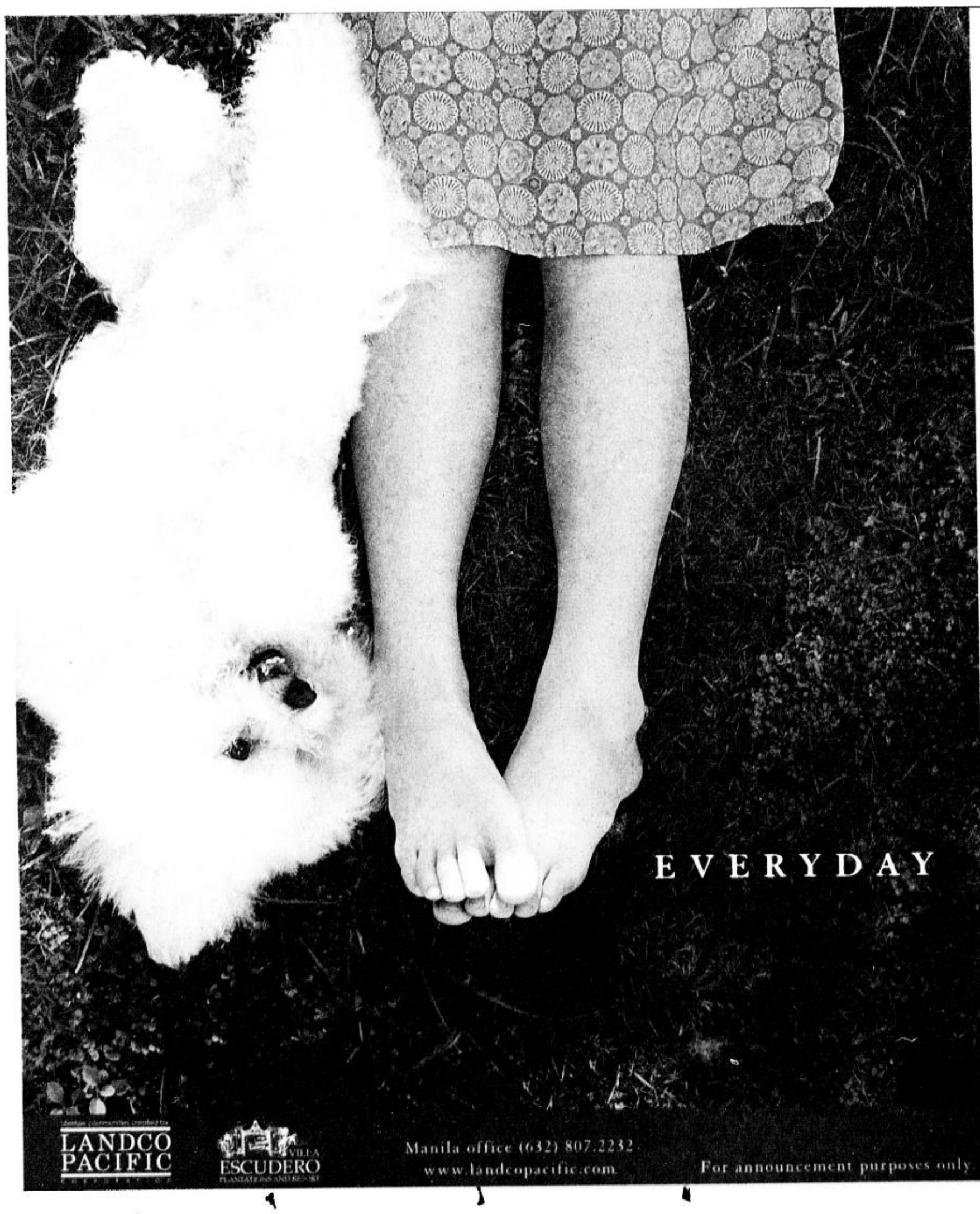
Amenities offered by the property include underground cabling for power, communication and CATV, available wiring for high-speed Internet connection, high-level security alarm system, swimming pool, shower rooms, tea garden, lily pond, multifunction hall, children's playground and game courts.

Just a few steps away is The Wharf, currently the newest happening place south of Manila which presents delightful dining options. The Wharf makes an excellent choice for a relaxing Aquino family brunch on a lazy Sunday.

Located south of Manila within La Posada in Brittany Bay, it is a mere 15-minute drive to Makati and just 10 minutes from Alabang—making it an accessible alternative to the cliché of living in an urban jungle.

Victorianne has two model units available. Duetto, a four-level structure, has two units back-to-back to ensure the homeowner's privacy. The Quadrille, on the other hand, is a cluster of four units sharing two of the four walls to maximize the space. A separate entrance and view guarantee's the homeowner's privacy. The Duetto and Quadrille occupy a total of 146 sq m of floor space on an 86-sq-m lot and 126-sq-m floor space on a 70-sq-m lot, respectively.

For inquiries and property previews, please call 850-2868 or 850-3084, or visit www.brittany.com.ph.

The most invigorating experiences are oftentimes the most familiar. Especially so at the new MonteLago Nature Estates, Southern Laguna's most exclusive residential development on a sprawling 102-hectares of prime Escudero property. Situated ten minutes away from bustling San Pablo City, the calm and quiet of MonteLago makes everyday so unlike every day.

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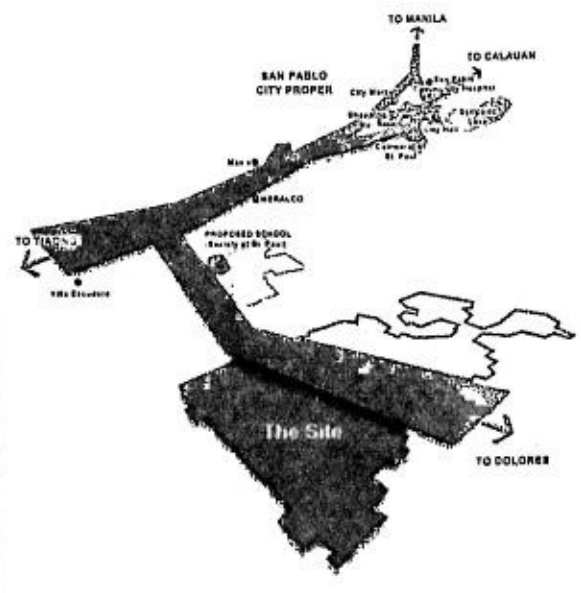


MonteLago NATURE ESTATES

Beyond the ordinary.

# PROPERTY

# Pag-Ibig Fund to hold forum with developers

By Charles E. Buban

THE HOME DEVELOPment Mutual Fund, otherwise known as Pag-Ibig, has scheduled a meeting with the country's leading developers to discuss ways on how to efficiently utilize its funds for housing.

Pag-Ibig Fund president and CEO Romero Federico Quimbo revealed that the Nov. 22 meeting will tackle concerns regarding appraisal formula, interest rates and loan to value ratio, proposed loan ceiling for socialized housing for medium-rise buildings, as well as the computation for the required equity for housing bond as compliance to balanced housing requirements.

Marketing of foreclosed assets of HDMF, timeline for buyback accounts, and other developers' proposals to further enhance efficiency and sustainability of funds will also be discussed.

Apart from Quimbo, other key HDMF officials attending include EVP and deputy CEO Jaime Fabiaña, SVP Tess Gonzales and HDMF regional managers who will serve as key resource speakers.

## Serving as venue

"The forum will serve as proper venue for the members of the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association and other practitioners in the housing industry to put forward their concerns and queries regarding the implementation of Pag-Ibig's various housing loan programs addressed for both developers and end-users," said SHDA national president Willie Uy.

Uy revealed HDMF Circular 198 will be among the topics to discussed. The circular sets guidelines on the development and construction of low-cost housing units in Metro Manila and highly urbanized cities. Also to be tackled are the socialized housing units in the provinces by Pag-Ibig Fund.

"This topic is timely considering a lot of our members are now into low-cost and socialized housing in their effort to help families who are having a hard time acquiring quality yet affordable homes," said SHDA board adviser Jesus Atencio.

## Help desk

According to SHDA chair Marilu Alferez, during the meeting there will be a help desk, to be manned by HDMF regional officers. She revealed that the help desk will immediately sort out concerns of developers.

Alferez said the forum, which will be held at the Makati Sports Club in Makati City, supports the thrusts of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, which advocates continuous collaboration of the private sector (developers), the government as well as homeowner beneficiaries.

The HUDCC is the government lead body that sets policies and programs on housing and urban development.

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# Metro Sta. Rosa the new boom town

WHEN THE PLAN TO DECONgest Metro Manila was set in motion in the 1990s, manufacturing companies had to transfer their base of operations elsewhere. Among all the strategic locations, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, was chosen by top multinationals because of its cool weather, pollution-free environment, location and proximity to Metro Manila.

The past decade recorded the first boom in property values in Sta. Rosa. The influx of companies such as Fujitsu and Panasonic to form the country's version of Silicon Valley and the conglomeration of Toyota, Honda and Nissan to assemble the local Detroit have definitely spearheaded the rapid urbanization of Sta. Rosa into a new city.

The success of Sta. Rosa has also caused a ripple effect in the development of the nearby towns of Biñan, Laguna and Silang, Cavite, plus the city of Tagaytay. Together, these four urban centers are now called Metro Sta. Rosa.

## New U-Belt down South

Various signs point to a new boom to be recorded in Metro Sta. Rosa in the next few months. Top schools such as De La Salle, St. Scholastica and Don Bosco are already operating in Sta. Rosa to serve the educational needs of the area's growing population.

University of Sto. Tomas, Xavier School and University of Asia & the Pacific are set to open their campuses in the near future. This intense academic activity makes Metro Sta. Rosa the new University Belt down South.

In the retail sector, Walter Mart and Robinsons malls are abuzz with activity in Sta. Rosa City. In the next few months, SM City Sta. Rosa will open to give people more urban choices. These top retailers make life all the more convenient for executives, workers and businessmen.

The best sign, however, is the renewed vigor in the residential component of Metro Sta. Rosa. The presence of prime developments such as Ayala Westgrove and Wedge Woods plus the launch of new projects by other developers have aroused the interest anew of investors and homemakers for a piece of property to call their home in this boom town.

## The best in Metro Sta. Rosa

One project, however, stands out among all these residential projects. South Forbes Golf City—a 250-hectare integrated golf resort city—makes residents enjoy the all-in-one lifestyle. They can play, shop, work, live and unwind within this new city's confines. South Forbes perfectly integrates clubhouse amenities, a city center and mall, a cyberpark, residential houses and buildings, a hotel, and a golf club within the whole development.

The financing options on offer make South Forbes a really wise investment. For as low as P18,000 a month, investors and homemakers can acquire a lot at the exclusive resort-inspired community of South Forbes Bali Mansions. For this small amount, they can position themselves this early in preparation for the new peak of property prices to be recorded in this boom town.

## Innovative perks

This investment also entitles them to innovative perks as well. They get a free membership to the 18-hole South Forbes Golf Club designed by Asia's leading golf course designer, the International Management Group (IMG). Preferred access and big discounted rates also await them at 42 IMG SportsClub affiliates in North America, Europe and the Asia-Pacific.

This only means one thing: a grand golf getaway for the sport's enthusiasts in the Nirwana Bali Golf Club, the Moonah Links in Melbourne and the prestigious Presidio Golf Club near the famed Golden Gate Bridge of San Francisco. With more practice in these world-class golf clubs, virtually anyone can record another boom—in his or her golfing game, that is.

To see for yourself why South Forbes is the best investment option, and to position yourself now in the boom town of Metro Sta. Rosa, call (02) 635-8108 or (02) 636-4647 or visit www.southforbes.com.

THE THIRD floor attic can be easily converted to a guest room, computer room, or even a home office.

TOP schools and technoparks beside South Forbes make it ideal as a first home.

# *The right elements make a home an investment*

MOST PEOPLE LOOKING FOR a home consider several factors that can turn it into an investment rather than just a place to live. When they take into account its accessibility to public places, the desirability of its surroundings, the efficiency of its facilities and other aspects, they're already looking for value beyond what just the house or unit itself offers.

Condominium developers are among those that take great pains to meet all these requirements of proximity, facilities and outright cost. However, only a few manage to achieve that "perfect mix" of factors to truly entice unit buyers.

"Striking the perfect balance of price, location and amenities is very difficult to achieve in a condominium. It's a matter of maximizing your strengths and turning your weaknesses into advantage," explains Tony Quintano, marketing manager of The Malayan Plaza in Ortigas City.

## Most important factor

Quintano agrees that location is the single most important factor that raises the value of a property. "Location is the biggest factor, and all discerning residential developers and buyers know this," he says.

He cited The Malayan Plaza as an example. Says Quintano: "This is the only first-class condominium in this area. There are others nearby, but certainly not of this stature, and not with this kind of location. They are either too close to the crowds, noise and traffic of the malls, or too far already for a resident to reach these commercial districts on foot. The only buildings that can lay the same claim as ours are the small hotels, but of course you cannot own them."

The primacy of its location was what prompted the Yuchengco Group of Companies to see The Malayan Plaza through to its completion despite the financial challenges that its partner developer, the ASB Realty group, had to undergo. "It's about fulfilling an obligation to the publics that we serve, and keeping the trust and value with which the name Malayan has come to be associated," he explains.

Situated on ADB Avenue in front of The Podium, The Malayan Plaza rises 36-stories and is a five- to 10-minute walk away from Robinsons Galleria, Megamall and Shangri-La mall. Also nearby are the string of bistros in El Pueblo, St. Francis' Square and on Pearl Drive and Emerald Street. Golf courses at Wack Wack and Camp Aguinaldo are also close at hand. For learning institutions, there are Poveda, Brent, St. Paul's College, Lourdes School of Mandaluyong, University of Asia and the Pacific and La Salle Greenhills.

There's also the country's premier medical institution, The Medical City, as well as numerous banking, financial, communications and other establishments that have made Ortigas Center almost as equally bustling a commercial capital as Makati City.

## Sense of security

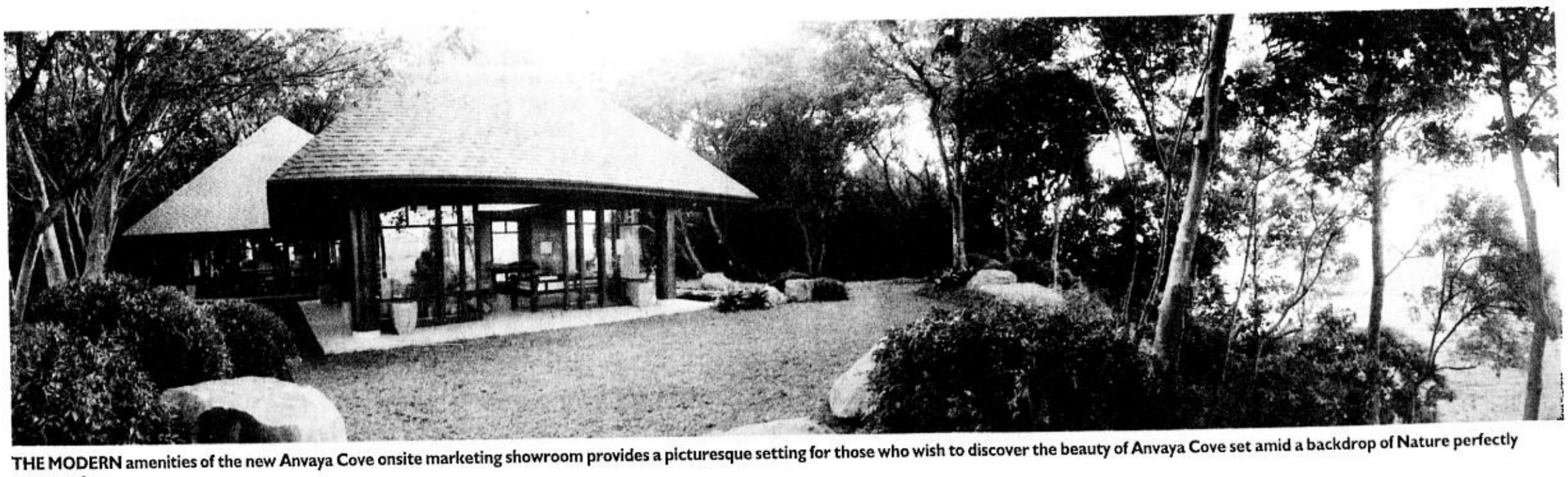
Of course, location is not confined to its sense of proximity but also encompasses the sense of security for residents.

"When you buy a condominium, you buy into the company or association that manages it," Quintano said. "The management should be such that it ensures the safety, security and comfort of the inhabitants. In this respect, The Malayan Plaza rises above ordinary residential condominiums because of the name—and its connection with the Yuchengco group—that it has to protect."

To cap the "perfect balance" of the elements, The Malayan Plaza put in equally first-class facilities such as a fully equipped workout gym, a spacious pool and whirlpool areas, a game room, a mini-golf putting green, kiddie playground, jogging paths around the property and two executive lounges for social functions and intimate dinners. Plus each unit from the studio to the four-bedroom affair exudes spaciousness and warmth with its Filipiniana touches.

"With the right combination of elements, the value of the property will inevitably rise," Quintano claims. "That's when you can truly say that your home becomes an investment for life."

The Malayan Plaza is currently more than 80 percent sold and is expecting completion in December 2005. For inquiries, call the sales office at 632-7081, 632-7832 or 0917-849-4498 or e-mail malayanplaza@yahoo.com.



THE MODERN amenities of the new Anvaya Cove onsite marketing showroom provides a picturesque setting for those who wish to discover the beauty of Anvaya Cove set amid a backdrop of Nature perfectly preserved.

# Anvaya Cove onsite marketing showroom opens

AYALA LAND INC. RECENTLY UNVEILED the onsite marketing showroom of its first-ever leisure community project, Anvaya Cove, in Morong, Bataan. The 320-hectare site, located near Subic Bay Freeport and embracing a portion of Subic Bay, is a unique, breathtaking setting where the mountains meet the sea.

To be developed within this leisure community is the members-only Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club as well as a number of distinct residential neighborhoods for those who wish to purchase lots after acquiring club shares.

The onsite sales pavilion is situated atop The Cliffside, the first and most prime residential neighborhood to be offered by Ayala Land in Anvaya Cove. "We have put our best foot forward with our initial offering, as Ayala Land always does in its pioneering projects," says ALI vice president and head of the leisure and lifestyle communities group, Marivic Añonuevo.

The showroom offers the best and most commanding view of Subic Bay and the Ilinging Cove, and is set within a lush forested area of the neighborhood.

"The onsite marketing showroom is very important in establishing the initial Anvaya Cove experience with its design and architecture," notes ALI senior division manager Beng Abella.

## Architectural theme

The showroom typifies the unique Asian tropical design conceptualized especially for Anvaya Cove by renowned local architectural firm Leandro V. Locsin & Partners, through design consultant Andy Locsin.

Various structures throughout the development—the Anvaya Cove Beach & Nature Club, lookout tower and Tower Bar, chapel, Lagoon Suites overnight dwelling units, spa huts and others—will carry the said architectural theme, mainly characterized by quarter-arched roofs, earthy colors and building materials indigenous to the site itself.

"This marketing pavilion gives people a taste of the truly world-class and exciting things to come in Anvaya Cove from the structure to the experience we have created within," adds Abella.

The showroom complements the earlier-opened Anvaya Cove Makati Greenbelt showroom in Greenbelt 2 Garden near Italianni's and Segafredo. Those interested in acquiring club shares and eventually owning their dream vacation home in Anvaya Cove will have numerous opportunities to explore the premium leisure lifestyle Ayala Land is offering and have a preview of the amenities which are to emerge within the development.

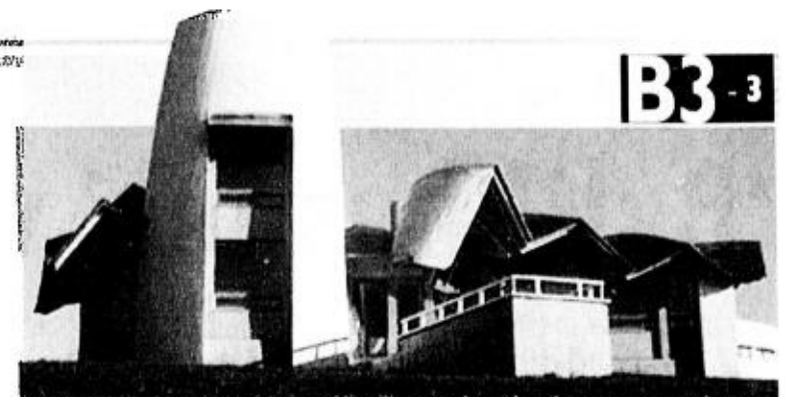
## Local alternative

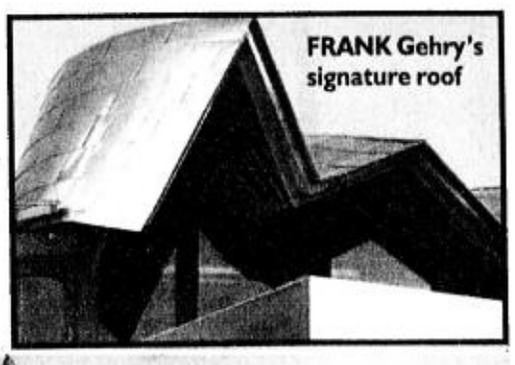
Apart from its unique natural features, Anvaya Cove is also envisioned to offer a local alternative to world-class tourist and leisure destinations with resort quality service.

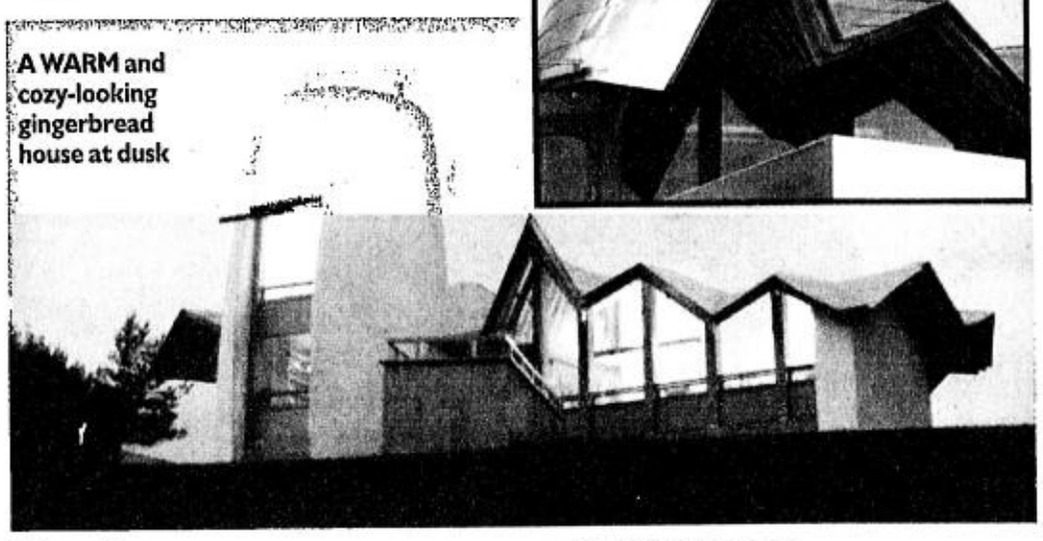
The Anvaya Cove Beach & Nature Club will be where members, guests and residents will be able to enjoy the top-notch and professional service of the Anvaya Cove staff for their leisure activities such as picnics, water sports, personal services like massages, or educational opportunities such as nature or marine ecosystem exploration.

To know more about Anvaya Cove and to schedule onsite visits, call its Makati Greenbelt showroom at Greenbelt 2 Garden (near Italianni's and Segafredo), Ayala Center Makati, at 892-3333. Interested parties may also call the Ayala Land sales hotline at 728-7000, e-mail anvayacove@ayalaland.com.ph or visit www.anvayacove.com.

# A gingerbread house for cancer patients


MAGGIE'S Center: a place of healing and coping for cancer patients.


FRANK Gehry's signature roof


A WARM and cozy-looking gingerbread house at dusk

ON THE GROUNDS OF NINEWELLS Hospital in Dundee, Scotland, stands the United Kingdom's first building made by world-renowned architect Frank Gehry. And although this may be no Guggenheim Museum, it has been described as great—in its own way.

Opened on September 2003 by Sir Bob Geldof, Maggie's Center was named after and inspired by cancer patient Maggie Keswick Jencks, who herself died from the dreaded disease in 1995.

**AMAZING STRUCTURES**

### Friendly, inviting ambience

Gehry, a close friend of Jencks, wanted to create a building with a friendly and inviting atmosphere, one that will make people want to go and spend some time inside, and one that would be a fitting tribute to Jencks. Maggie's Center helps people living with cancer and their loved ones cope and manage the physical and emotional impact of living with cancer.

Looking like a gingerbread house with aluminum foil over it, the center has Gehry's signature curving walls and unusually rising and falling roof made of stainless steel and timber. The center has a library, a kitchen, a sitting room, a large relaxation room for group activities and two smaller rooms for those who need individual support.

Maggie's Center was named building of the year on June 2004 by the Royal Fine Art Commission. Chairman Lord St. John of Fawsley described Gehry as "the greatest contemporary American architect" and emphasized that Maggie's Center's significance goes beyond architectural. *Dianne M. Villafuerte*

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# Terrazas de Punta Fuego expansion elevates resort living

PREMIERE RESIDENTIAL RESORT Terrazas de Punta Fuego continues to elevate resort living as it starts work on a new phase of the development.

The expansion will give the second home market another opportunity to experience the trademark Punta Fuego lifestyle with the introduction of a limited number of select residential lots. It will carry the same Asian-Mediterranean theme of Terrazas but will feature new attractions and improvements.

This new phase is located at the peak of the Terrazas property, affording scenic all-around views of the entire Nasugbu area, its mountains and coastlines, and even as far as the Matabungkay area.

### Ideal spot

The location's eastward orientation also makes it an ideal spot for Terrazas homeowners to spend their afternoons after enjoying the beach, with the view shaded from the sun by the surrounding mountains.

A 700 meter-long linear park and a large central park are being planned in the area to take advantage of its beautiful natural vista and shady location. These destinations are envisioned to complement the Terrazas beach and become a popular landmark and gathering place within the community where families can enjoy nature and the outdoors.

The linear park will be constructed on the edge of the cliff and will feature rich landscaping to encourage homeowners to walk the entire frontage while enjoying the panoramic landscape. There will also be special walkways and paths for mountain biking and jogging.

### Central park

A focal point of the new phase is the central park that will also house an exclusive clubhouse with first-class leisure amenities such as a swimming pool, multipurpose pavilion and themed gardens. The park is also meant to be more child-friendly with provisions for playgrounds and generous open areas for kids to run around freely and safely.

Lot owners of this expansion phase will enjoy access to the various world-class resort amenities and facilities of Club Punta Fuego.

Landco Pacific Corp. is a multiproduct developer of high-quality residential resorts, leisure farms, first homes residential developments, shopping centers and CBDs, and memorial parks. Now celebrating its 15th anniversary, the company continues to provide superior value in its developments, and is widely recognized as a benchmark for innovative and outstanding lifestyle products that revolutionize the way you live. For more information please call 807-2232 to 34, e-mail info@landcopacific.com or visit www.landcopacific.com.

ROADWORK has already started for the new phase of Terrazas de Punta Fuego.

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# 'Balikbayans' warm to themed communities

WITH HIGH-END RESIdential properties in the Philippines increasingly attracting *balikabayans*, including Filipino-Americans who are professionals or entrepreneurs interested in owning second homes here for vacation, investment or retirement purposes, competition is increasingly stiff as more players enter this sector of the real estate market.

Brittany Corp., which specializes in upmarket residential communities, says its signature, theme-inspired designs for its communities are emerging as a key advantage in attracting this market segment.

"These days, practically all high-end communities are masterplanned and sited in strategic locations," says Brittany president and CEO Jing Serrano. "We are finding out, based on actual responses, that our maverick approach of planning our communities based on themes drawn from the world's best destinations is a major factor in attracting *balikbayan* buyers.

EMERITO Pascual, strategic planner of Brittany Corp., answers questions from the press during the press launch of Brittany in Los Angeles, US

## Different segments

"Brittany communities are intended for different segments of the high-end market, either people who are based here, or those who currently live and work abroad. Their common denominator is that they are all successful, and demand high standards of the homes and communities they choose to invest in," Serrano explains.

She says that whether based in the country or living overseas, they share common concerns, particularly with regard to the safety and security of their families, construction and design quality, and location.

In addition, Serrano notes, Brittany buyers are "citizens of the world" with cultivated tastes who enjoy traveling to different countries, so that the proposition of carefully themed and well-executed communities resonates with their experiences. "The uniqueness of Brittany communities, imparted by their themes, is a factor that our buyers mention," she says.

BRITTANY corporate communications head Nova Noval detailing Brittany properties to the Fil-Am market at the Hilton Hotel in Glendale, California

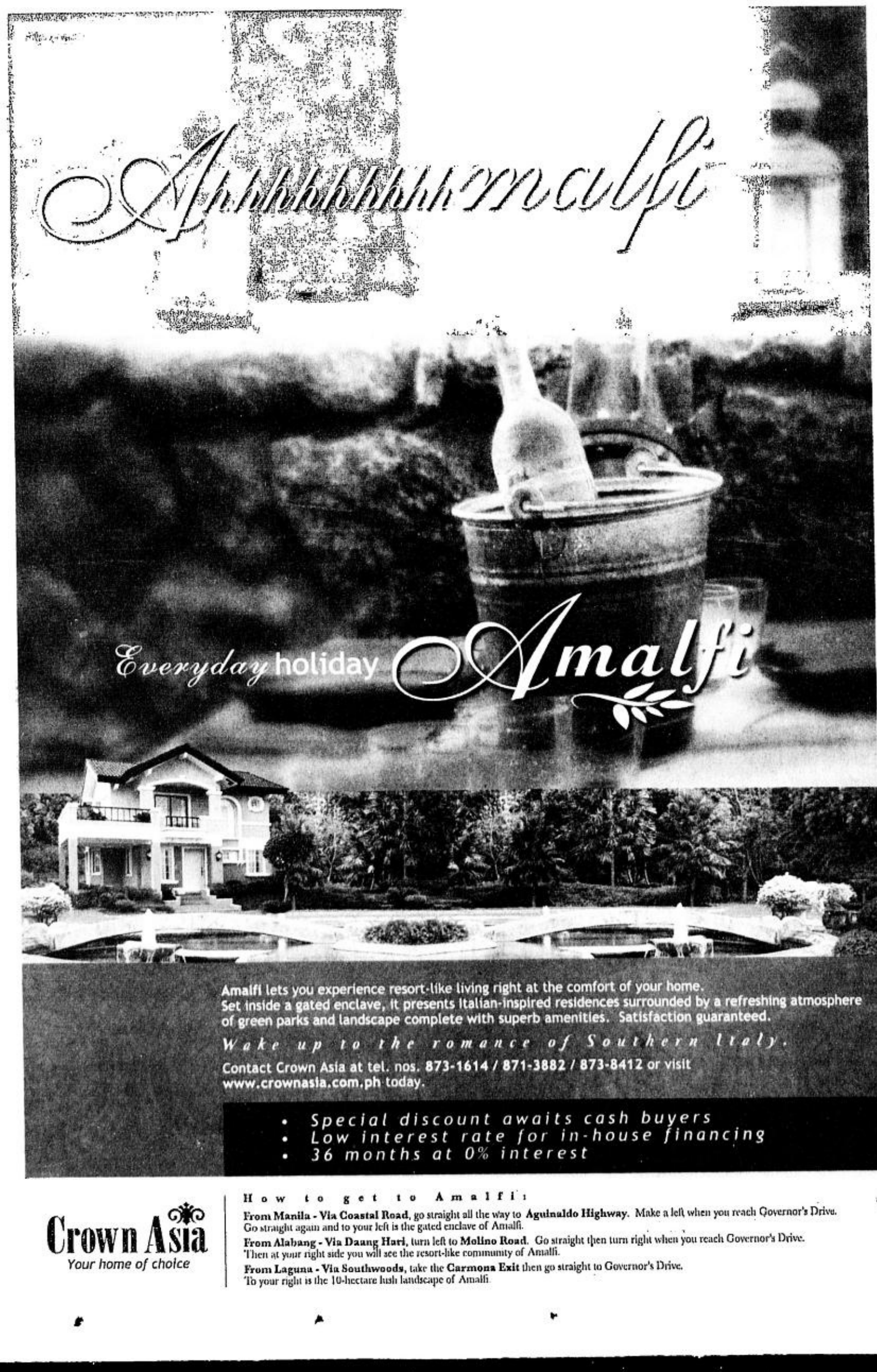
Says Serrano: "A Brittany development is not intended to be a replica of the place that suggested it. Rather, its theme is intended to evoke the original inspiration, giving homes and communities a tasteful coherence. There is a sense of style reflected within a home and its surroundings, even as it respects the environment and topography."

## Important element

According to the chief executive, the theme is an important element in creating a "lifescape," in each community, a Brittany concept that refers to elevating the quality of life of residents to a new level, enhancing their enjoyment of living.

"For example, at Swiss-themed CrossWinds in Tagaytay, residents wake up in the cool of quiet mornings surrounded by thousands of imported pine trees, amid rolling terrain and greenery, with plenty of outdoor space and fresh, temperate air. With distinct architectural designs that include wood patterns and eaves, and cheerful, cozy interiors, whether they live in single-detached chalet-type homes, or Quadrilles, or a Grand Quartier, residents partake of a Swiss-inspired 'lifescape' at CrossWinds, one shaped by the theme," Serrano says.

"To *balikbayan* buyers, the thematic inspirations of Brittany properties offer the best of all worlds, giving them homes in the Philippines built on construction and design standards to which they are accustomed, while reflecting their life experiences and values," Serrano concludes.




# Manila's reinvention continues with Celadon Residences San Lazaro

THE RENAISSANCE OF THE city of Manila leaps forward with Celadon Residences San Lazaro, a spectacular residential development project by Ayala Land company Community Innovations on the original site of the historic San Lazaro Racetracks.

Community Innovations has partnered with the Manila Jockey Club Inc. to transform a portion of the 15-hectare former hippodrome into modern, cosmopolitan townhomes and condominium towers.

## Historic national capital

Already attracting the notice of the influential Fil-Chinese community within Manila itself, it has also caught the attention of those residing elsewhere who desire a prestigious development in the historic national capital.

Manila reigns supreme over the national identity as the center of Philippine history, culture, commerce and government. Rising from the ashes of the Second World War, it persists in the imagination as a byword for the promise and reality of success.

Even as its suburbs have grown and changed, they continue to claim and enjoy the authority and mystique conjured by the name of Manila. Manila remains pre-eminent as the capital of not only government but also history and national culture.

Manila's attractions and facilities remain integral to the offerings and capabilities of Metro Manila. Major transport networks and arteries spring from Manila as center. Five circumferential roads, including the C4 corridor and famed Edsa as the most prominent, radiate from downtown Manila.

Under the guidance of Mayor Lito Atienza, Manila proper is undergoing a revitalization not seen since the days of postwar reconstruction.

## Upscale residential complex

Celadon Residences San Lazaro will contribute to the renaissance of Manila as a place in which to live as well as visit and work. Featuring an upscale residential complex composed of a mix of townhomes and residential condominium units, Community Innovations' San Lazaro development will, in the words of the Manila mayor, inspire more developments of similar quality, taking advantage of all the central Manila location has to offer.

Binondo, the mercantile town that is still a major player in finance and commerce, is a quick hop from the proposed site. Historic Intramuros and busy Lawton stretch to the bounds of the shopping and commercial areas of Ermita and Vito Cruz as well as the tourism enclaves of Malate and Roxas Boulevard, which provides a major access to the international airport and girds the scenic beauty of Manila Bay.

Families will have an array of prestigious educational institutions for their children in the immediate area, ranging from exclusive private schools to legendary Catholic institutes to the choice Chinese schools of Fil-Chinese favor.

The city of Manila has always formed the foundation of the metropolis that bears its name. Filled with those who are passionate about business, lifestyle, culture and heritage, Manila's renaissance is an affirmation of dynamism and development. Celadon Residences San Lazaro is part of that renewal.

Community Innovations builds balanced, harmonious communities with a sense of fun, where the living experience enhances the lifestyles and fulfills the aspirations of its customers.

# *Robinsons buys Ortigas lot*

ROBINSONS LAND CORP.-High Rise Buildings Division recently signed a contract with Ortigas & Co. Ltd Partnership for the purchase of the Ortigas lot locate on Topaz Street, Ortigas Center where RLC's much-awaited East of Galleria will rise.

A block away from the highly successful Robinsons Galleria Mall, East of Galleria will be the newest residential condominium development to rise in the heart of bustling Ortigas business district.

Soaring 45 stories high, EOG will bring a new level of urban lifestyle by providing unparalleled comfort.

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Editor Pam Pastor
Creative Director Tim Yap

pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Countdown

43 ...days ...till Christmas

# Oh Boy!

Super! exclusive Sneak preview of Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire page C2

Hanging out w/ Opera Rockstars Il Divo in HK page D1

Your Super! Guide to QTV page E3

Raya Mananquil says its hip to be square page E1

Produced by TIM YAP
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Make up: ABBYGALE ARENAS
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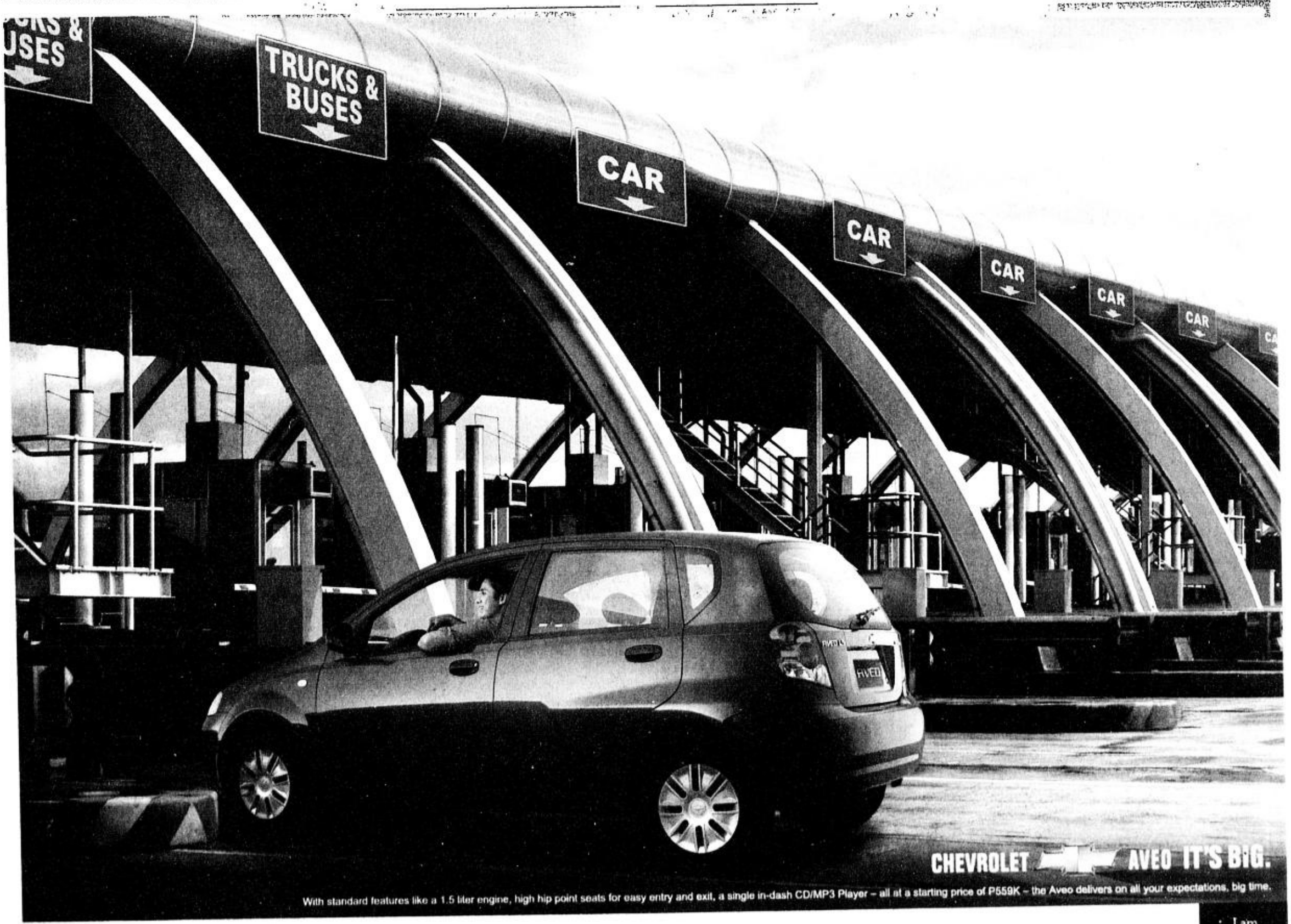
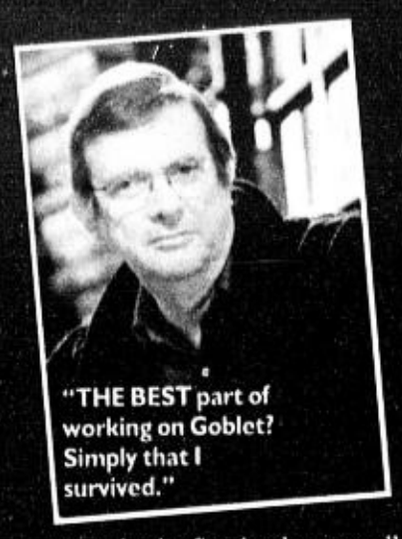


SUPER EXCLUSIVE:

# Mike Newell brings balance to Hogwarts



"THE BEST part of working on Goblet? Simply that I survived."

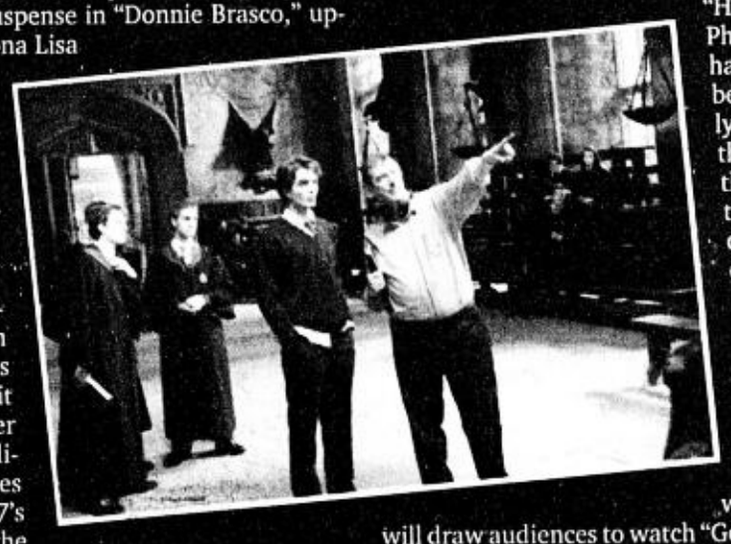
MIKE NEWELL with Daniel Radcliffe on the set of "Goblet of Fire"

By Ruel S. De Vera

## In this exclusive Q&A, the director of the latest Harry Potter movie talks about the magic and the mayhem that comes with taking on J.K. Rowling's young wizard

DEPENDING ON WHAT ANGLE YOU'RE LOOKING at the Mirror of Erised, Mike Newell has either the easiest or the most formidable job as the director of "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." After all, the 63-year-old Newell is conjuring the year's can't-miss release in this motion picture adaptation of J.K. Rowling's Aragog-sized series of novels. Add to that the talents crew and beguiling cast. But that also makes "Goblet" a vexing challenge; how far should it be as a tangent to the first three movies, should it reach out to new fans or to the hardcore followers of the series?

Newell certainly has the experience for the task. He handled gritty suspense in "Donnie Brasco," uplifting drama in "Mona Lisa Smile," and, probably best of all, ably balanced devotion and death in "Four Weddings and a Funeral." Interestingly enough, while the Harry Potter series is an overwhelmingly British property, Newell is actually the first Brit to direct a Potter movie (British TV director David Yates will direct 2007's "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix)." Now behold this super-exclusive e-mail conversation with the INQUIRER as Newell presides over the film's opening in busy London:



**Super:** "Goblet of Fire" is certainly a bit of a change of pace for you. How different was your experience on this movie compared to the other ones you've worked on?

**Mike Newell:** It was intermittently difficult. The beginning of the story was always very difficult to get a kind of balance on. The way that Jo Rowling solved storytelling was that she didn't care about space; she could have as much space as she wants. So, she wrote a lot of interesting, rambling stuff that involved characters, house elves and so forth, which co-incidentally were enormously expensive to realize. Enormous amounts of money though it had, it was still pretty easy to run out. In a sense the practicalities would eat away at the stuff you couldn't do. Then there was this very delicate balance where you can't just give them story, you have got to give them decoration as well. It has to be like an Indian movie where everything happens: it's a romance, a musical, a thriller, a variety show, an entertainment. And in the end, I got to think that what I had to deliver was an entertainment, a great big, broad-based entertainment.

**Super:** You are the third director to work on this blockbuster series. Conversely, what do you think you bring to the Harry Potter that is different and distinct compared to Chris Columbus and Alfonso Cuaron?

**Newell:** I watched the other three films and I saw things to admire and in all of them things I wouldn't want to do. And so, what I did was simply went the way I would have made the film if it were just me. It was about adolescence and therefore it was going to be full of difficulty for these people. It was a very frightening story from time to time, so it was going to have the visual rules of a scary movie. At times it was very dark; at times it was very jaggedly edited; and at times you withhold information that the audience might expect you to give. All those things you do. But it is not as if you suddenly paint everything pink or as if you turn the clock back and say we are going back to a version of this kind of idealized childhood which "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" had. I thought number one was strikingly good because of that; it really caught the innocence of the thing. But you couldn't do that because they are 14 now. As long as you play by those rules you can have the freedom you want. Certainly nobody cut up rough.

**Super:** And what do you think will draw audiences to watch "Goblet of Fire," particularly when compared to the earlier movies?

**Newell:** There is a competition around which this story is written, and the competition has three tasks in it. We are making at least three different worlds, whereas the films before, they had a sequence here and a sequence there. They had a basilisk, a three headed dog, this, that and the other. But what they haven't done is to create 12- to 14-minute sequences where the whole thing takes place underwater. Or the whole thing takes place with a 40-foot dragon. You are actually making different worlds in this one. It is more radical that the others have been because you change the reality completely.

**Super:** Were you familiar with the book prior to your working on the film? What drew you to the Harry Potter series?

**Newell:** I had read the first one and seen both films, because at that stage there were two not three. I thought the first book was really good. I thought it had the most wonderful opening of any children's book I had ever come across. This terrible poor orphan child who was kept in a cupboard under the stairs, which I thought was really mythic. And actually when I started to make the film I thought quite a lot about what might be mythic in the story that I was dealing with: mythic about his character. He is the cornerstone the builders rejected, if you like; he is the little boy with glasses who is not very good at anything. It is absolutely classic stuff that fate would reach its finger down and elevate the least likely.

**Super:** How does it feel coming to work with a cast and crew that, for the most part, had been working together before "Goblet of Fire?"

**Newell:** I think that the studio and producers were very liberal about changes. Once in a while there was, "Oh no, you don't have a wand like that." And depending on whether I was feeling bloody-minded or not I would accede to that or growl at it, "Why can't you have a wand like that, who says?" But it was only ever, in a very minor way, the details. There was no orthodoxy, except, of course, you were there to put a famous novel on the screen; therefore you can't change it that much.

**Super:** "Goblet" is one of the thickest Potter books and a lot of the original material had to be sacrificed to make it into a workable movie. What was your criteria for what had to be kept and what had to be chucked?

**Newell:** The producers said to me, "Read the book and if you can see a movie to make, then we should talk." And I read it and I thought of a way to do this. Of course this is a huge book—originally they were thinking of making two films of this, and I think they are absolutely right not to because there is not quite enough story for two films. You ask yourself what story are you going to tell? Is there a form of story that can actually discipline this great rambling mass? And I thought that there was. I thought you could make a very good thriller out of it, a classic thriller where the good guy, the innocent at the center of it, knows absolutely nothing at the beginning and the bad guy knows everything and has a plan. The shape of the film would be that the good guy catches up bit by bit as you go through the story, until to his horror he finds himself absolutely at the center of the bad man's machinations. That's a very good thriller. And that is exactly what the book does if you pare it down.

**Super:** What would you say then to the hardcore fans who want to see the entire book faithfully adapted? And was there something that you wished you could have included but had to be left out due to its length?

**Newell:** What I thought was that simply I have got to make a completely new start here. After I started work, people said to me that book four is the favorite of the fans. Then if you talk around, each book has its aficionados. Pretty good book number four, though. I also happen to know that the intensity of the relationship between the story and the characters and the audience is extraordinary. I am sure that I will find that even more as we go on into the release of the film, as we start to screen it and I actually see the baying hoards. But it is absolutely remarkable that it is this event for the fans, who are enormously widely based, all the way from Oxbridge intellectuals to 8-, 9-, 10-year-old children.

**Super:** Similarly, "Goblet" is probably the most effects-heavy movie of the series so far. Were you comfortable with that aspect?

**Newell:** It was daunting. I had never done anything like that before, or only a tiny bit of it. I didn't actually know how to do it. Very basically and technically, I didn't know how one moved from a drawing of the sequence, and storyboards, through to doing the animations. And people would use language that I had never heard—I didn't know what a pre-viz was. It is a particular development stage between the drawings and a much fuller animation. I just didn't know about that and they all did, of course. And there was an assumption that I knew. I had say, "No, but I don't know, please tell me." And they would tell me, but I think people didn't calculate on the depth of my ignorance. You get dragged up really fast, and I simply learned it. What was always surprising, and in a sense still is surprising, is how colossally hard it is to do. A huge amount of effort goes into these things, just enormous, shot by shot. We had something like 1500 to 1600 visual effects shots, some very simple—just taking a spot on somebody's forehead off—but very few of those. Mostly they were very big, complicated shots and just the fitting of all that together was immensely labor-intensive for everybody: the people who did the drawings, the people who have to manage these whole sequences, right the way through to me, who has to know what he is doing. It is very, very labor-intensive and I found it a huge job.

**Super:** What was the best part of working on "Goblet"?

**Newell:** The best part? Simply that I survived.

**Super:** How would you describe the three young stars of the series, Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint? What do you think their future prospects are?

**Newell:** Working with kids can be very difficult, very demanding. Sometimes they are ahead of you and sometimes they are behind you and you have just got to be very careful that you are being clear. And the other thing is you have to handle yourself properly. You mustn't make them feel that you are in any way superior to them. There is no vice in the children. All of them, the main three and the rest of them, are really good people. I liked them very much. That is entirely genuine; that isn't kind of interview speak. So I had a good time with them and enjoyed it a lot.

**Super:** Now that there have been four movies made from the series, with a fifth one set to be shot next year, do you think all the seven books will be adapted into movies? And would you like the chance to work on another Potter movie?

**Newell:** You know, I think when it comes to the last one there'll be queue a mile long. I'll certainly be there.

**Super:** And now that this experience is done, what is next for you?

**Newell:** Something really intense and small and character driven with not a single foot of visual effects in it. I have no idea what I'm going to do next.

SUPER EXCLUSIVE:

# The Harry Potter movies grow up amid 'Fire'

By Ruel S. De Vera

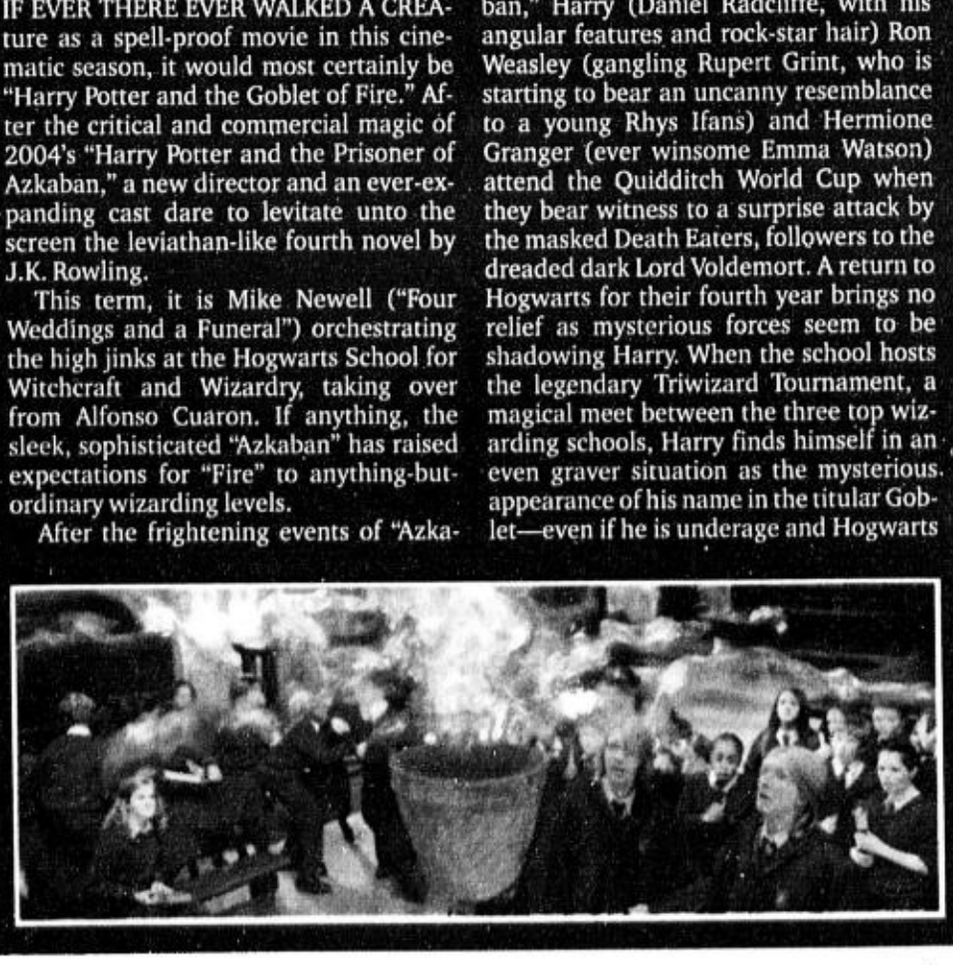
## Traditional and trim, 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire' is an accessibly entertaining fantasy

BOOK FOUR COMES TO LIFE. Scenes from "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire"

IF EVER THERE EVER WALKED A CREATURE as a spell-proof movie in this cinematic season, it would most certainly be "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." After the critical and commercial magic of 2004's "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," a new director and an ever-expanding cast dare to levitate unto the screen the leviathan-like fourth novel by J.K. Rowling.

This term, it is Mike Newell ("Four Weddings and a Funeral") orchestrating the high jinks at the Hogwarts School for Witchcraft and Wizardry, taking over from Alfonso Cuaron. If anything, the sleek, sophisticated "Azkaban" has raised expectations for "Fire" to anything-but-ordinary wizarding levels.

After the frightening events of "Azkaban," Harry (Daniel Radcliffe, with his angular features and rock-star hair) Ron Weasley (gangling Rupert Grint, who is starting to bear an uncanny resemblance to a young Rhys Ifans) and Hermione Granger (ever winsome Emma Watson) attend the Quidditch World Cup when they bear witness to a surprise attack by the masked Death Eaters, followers to the dreaded dark Lord Voldemort. A return to Hogwarts for their fourth year brings no relief as mysterious forces seem to be shadowing Harry. When the school hosts the legendary Triwizard Tournament, a magical meet between the three top wizarding schools, Harry finds himself in an even graver situation as the mysterious appearance of his name in the titular Goblet—even if he is underage and Hogwarts already has a champion. Worse, terrifying dreams haunt Harry.



Marking the halfway mark in the Potter series, "Goblet" is veritably a movie of elaborate entrances, literally: the arrival at Hogwarts of the Beauxbatons and Durmstrang students, the Hungarian Horntail swooping down on Harry, Hermione's dressed-up descent down the steps and of course Voldemort's horrific resurrection. Much of this is helped along with the best special effects in the series, in particular, the most realistic dragon on screen to date, a far cry from the rubbery centaur in "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets." What the dragon and the Voldemort scenes also signify is how much more serious the effects—and effectively the movies themselves—have become. Additionally composer Patrick Doyle ("A Little Princess") expands on John Williams' work to lend "Fire" a brooding, solid score.

What devotees of the series will notice most of all is just how much of the original book has been jettisoned order to make "Goblet" possible as a single movie that is anything less than five hours long. There's hardly anything left of the Quidditch World Cup and the script, by Steve Kloves, takes a more suspenseful, claustrophobic approach to the Triwizard Tournament. While it certainly works, it would have been interesting to see more of the World Cup, a superfluous but spectacular set piece in the book.

As a result of the steadily growing cast, "Goblet" has an embarrassment of riches. Wink, wave your wand, and you will literally miss them. "Fire" is full and frenetic but also literally overcrowded; some of the actors deliver one line or appear in one scene, some characters do little else than show up. Talk about showing up: Ralph Fiennes may not show up until close to the movie's end but his maleficent portrayal of Voldemort, complete with a metamorphosis that is part "Alien" and part "The Fly," is so hypnotic you can't look away, yet it is so menacing it might literally give little children nightmares.

It is then rather extraordinary then that the movie, clocking in at 2:37, is a relatively short Harry Potter film, even if the book is among the thickest at 734 pages. "Goblet" employs a conventional, extremely accessible narrative, without the moody, acrobatic place-setting of Cuaron's "Prisoner." This makes it a far more traditional fantasy, though it has enough edge to keep fickle Muggles in thrall, as if struck by Petrificus Totalus spell.

It is also by far the most Harry-centric movie in the series, as Radcliffe appears in virtually every scene. Where Radcliffe treads so too does "Fire." A fitting antidote to those nerdy glasses, Radcliffe's restrained acting aids Newell in putting forth the case that the only thing truly worse than the horror of facing evil incarnate is the prospect of finding dates for the Yule Ball. For all this burden of adaptation and translation, "Fire" moves with a straightforward, no-nonsense self-assuredness, a growing sense of purpose, not unlike that of Radcliffe who is imbuing his Harry with a more urgent energy and, dare we say it, angst as "The Boy Who Lived" struggles to come with terms with the fact his destiny has begun to sink its reptilian claws into him.

While it leads inevitably to a set-up for the next Harry Potter movie, "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" proves itself a cheeky, imminently watchable parable of growing up and a tale of transformations where the anguished action hero must face down adolescent awkwardness as well as awe-inspiring evil. Wicked, indeed.

*Warner Bros.' "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" opens on Nov. 16.*

# New in School

THE ANTICIPATED DAWNING OF THE fourth year at the Hogwarts School for Witchcraft and Wizardry brings more new developments than you can shake a Boggart at. Aside from the steadily maturing looks of Harry, Ron and Hermione, the aspiring magicians also have sleek new robes and scarves from costume designer Jany Temime. Also check out Professor Flitwick's new 'do (that's Warwick Davis, who has played an Ewok, Willow and the Leprechaun). "The Goblet of Fire" welcomes formidable additions to the Harry Potter cast. Get the diviner's details right here. RSDV.

## Alastor "Mad-Eye" Moody (Brendan Gleeson):

Every new year brings a new Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher and this year it's this former auror played by veteran British actor Brendan Gleeson, who memorably appeared in Wolfgang Peterson's "Troy" as King Menelaus, husband to Helen. You've probably also seen him in striking turns in "Kingdom of Heaven," "Mission Impossible 2" and a trunkfull of other films.

## Fleur Delacour (Clemence Poesy):

It might not seem like it, but this beautiful French actress has an extensive resumé, though it is almost entirely in French TV and cinema. After playing the Beauxbaton representative to the Triwizard Tournament, Clemence will soon be appearing in her first American TV role in the NBC series Revelations opposite Bill Pullman.

## Rita Skeeter (Miranda Richardson):

Another accomplished character actor in Miranda Richardson takes on the role of the scheming reporter for the Daily Prophet. Richardson is no stranger to fantastical roles, having played the Witch in "Sleepy Hollow" and Morgan La Fay in the miniseries "Merlin."

## Cho Chang (Katie Leung):

This newcomer beat out over 5,000—count them—5,000 girls for the role of the Ravenclaw seeker whom Harry pines for. This 18-year-old from Glasgow, Scotland actually auditioned only after her family learned about the audition on a Chinese TV channel (her father runs a restaurant).

## Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes):

One could fill up this entire space with this Oscar-nominated actor's memorable roles (OK, let's try: "Schindlerslist quizshowreddragon theconstantgardener oscarandlucinda theendoftheaffair thenglishpatient..."): Suffice to say, he is the Ralph Fiennes and he adds gravitas and buzz to the role of You-Know-Who.

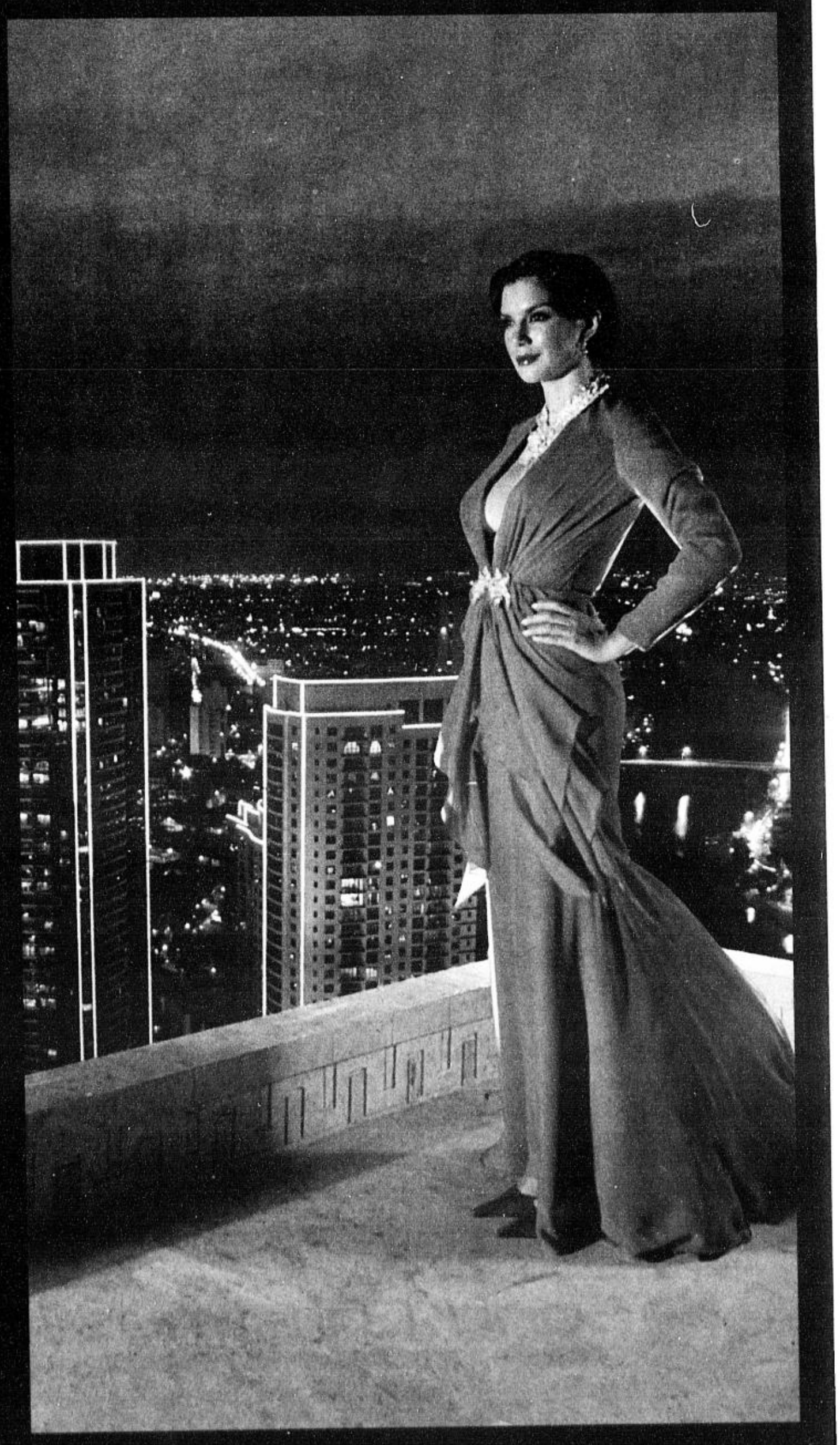
## Viktor Krum (Stanislav Ianevski):

This Bulgarian lad almost missed the chance to play the Quidditch superstar and Durmstrang rep when he missed the audition due to his commitments at a British boarding school. This 20-year-old natural athlete, acting for the first time, was actually noticed by Potter casting director Fiona Weir on a visit to the school purely by accident.

## Cedric Diggory (Robert Pattinson):

Even though he's only 19, Pattinson has acted on the British stage prior to his taking on the role of the Hogwarts Triwizard champion and Cho Chang's date to the Yule Ball.

One villa in the sky at Number One Rockwell.



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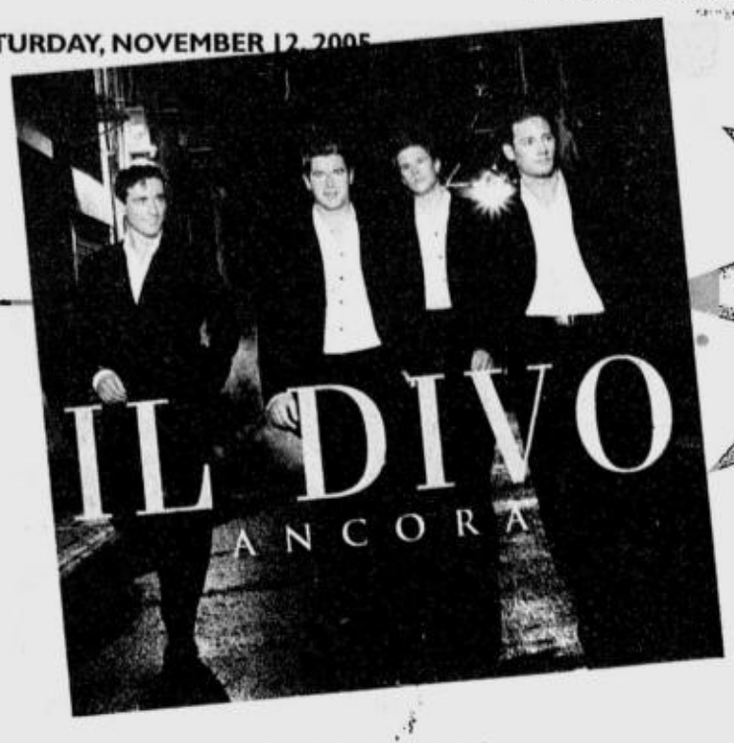


**ANCORA.** The second album of the phenomenal Il Divo series is out now.

IL DIVO IN HONG KONG

# To swoon over them is *Human* to hear them is *Divine*

ONCE UPON A TIME, CLASSICAL MUSIC enthusiasts worshipped three of the greatest tenors who have ever lived. They each have had a vast aria of stage experience, not to mention vocal chords of steel that could tear down any theatrical arena, causing audiences to clamor for more.

The pop culture Eintein of our time, the not-so-sexy-yet-naughty-bitchy Simon Cowell must have had this in his mind when he dreamed up of putting together four world class classical singers in one album. To make them more palatable to the discerning tastes of the now generation, Simon said, they must look good, too. So, Cowell label conducted his own version of "Opera Idol." The winners of this private search were aptly named Il Divo. Veterans of global productions from La Boheme to Beauty and the Beast, the members of Il Divo, the male divas of the operatic world who have managed to bring such a disciplined art form into the mass mainstream plate without losing its exclusive flavor, are American tenor David Miller, French man Sebastiend Izambard, Swiss tenor Urs Buhler and Spanish baritone Carlos Marin.

Soon after, these divine performers would tour the world, break existing records and make the young and the not so young appreciate the music that was once tagged as for "higher listening only." Il Divo has broken the mould and renamed it after themselves, being the male divas that they are. And why not? Their debut album kicked Robbie Williams behind, pushing him to number two status in the British billboard charts. And that was for singing songs in different European languages! They have done their own versions of "Unbreak My Heart" and "My Way," and indeed, did it their way—making these masterpieces soar even higher, with the combined powers of masterful rearrangements and four heartstopping vocal performers.

"Il Divo reminds us that great arias and classic pop songs are but two sides of the same coin," said Rudy Tee, the main man behind music giant Sony BMG, who's responsible for making these divos' voices heard here in our shores. For their second album, aptly entitled Ancora, IL Divo flew to our shopping mecca of a neighbor, Hong Kong to demonstrate what the world is fussing about.

For this Four Seasons party (they've been having an endless stream of events to drum beat their opening at the IFC complex), I brought along Hong Kong based Miriam Quiambao-Rondinelli, who is now quite fluent in Italian, and is now slowly accepting her new role as lady of leisure.

## Filipinos on front row

We arrived quite early, as these things in our neighboring Asian countries always start early (unlike here, but I'm not complaining) and I noticed that the ballroom was packed, save for the front row. "I wonder who the organizers saved those seats for?" I loudly asked Miriam, as I looked around and observed the celebrity-meets-society crowd that had gathered to meet and greet the fab four.

Not four minutes pass, and the rest of the Philippine delegation arrive. Yup, the front row seats were reserved for us! Boy Martirez, boy wonder of Smart was with his loving wife Marilu, Smart VVIP Julie Carcellier was with her stunning mom Emily Campos, music man Francis Lumen asked me whether I thought the possibility of an Il Divo concert will be good for Manila (to which I replied, of course!). GMA 7 top shots Wilma Galvante and

TO SWOON/ D2

RUSTAN'S MAKATI · RUSTAN'S TOWER · RUSTAN'S HARRISON PLAZA · AYALA CENTER, CEBU
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# To Swoon...

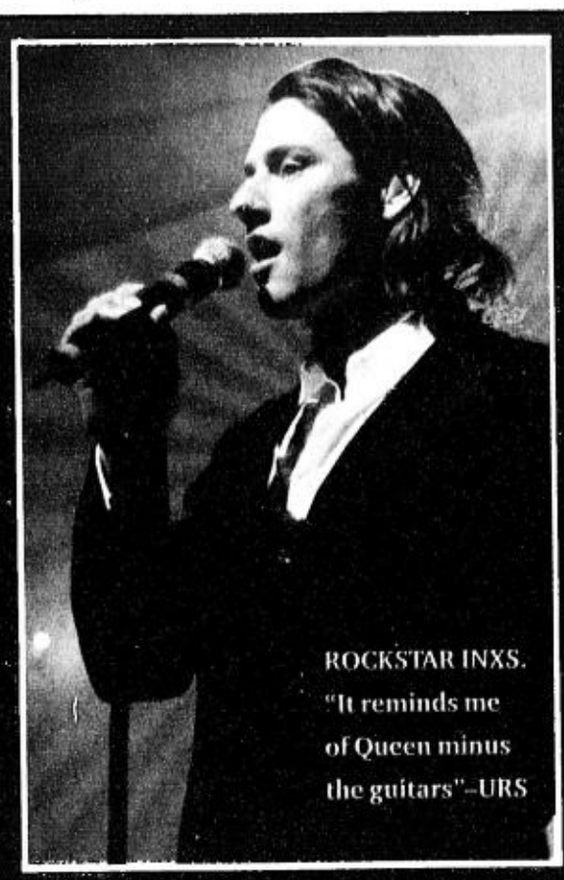
From page D1

Darling De Jesus were also there with Ricky Lo who was doing a segment for his TV show Showbiz Stripped, and so was Baby Arenas, patroness of performing arts, ready to break into aria.

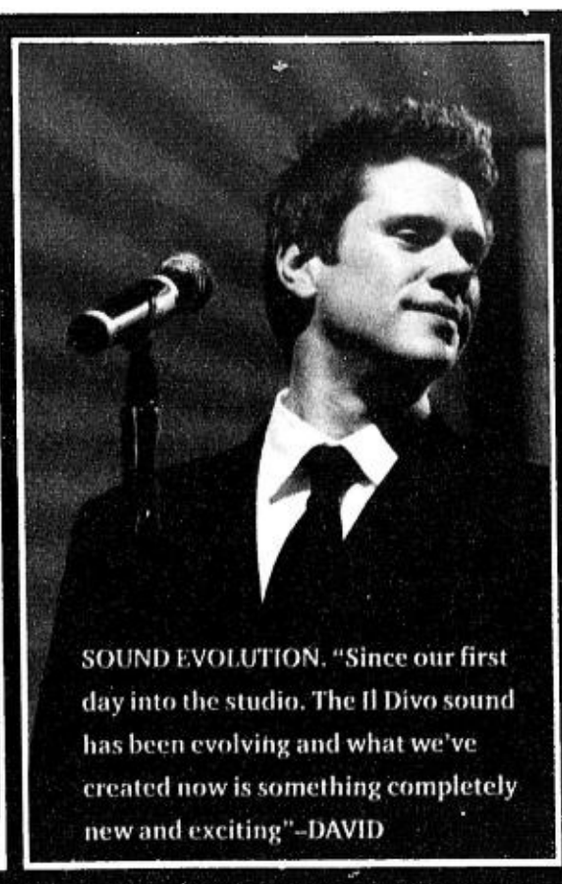
While they performed their songs from their Ancora album, I also saw how Sony-BMG muse Roslyn Reyes' eyes were swelling while listening to the four men and their new album. They sung the Il Divo versions of Hero, Unchained Melody, All By Myself and this other French melody that sounded so good I was on a musical trance when they ended. They even have a duet with Celine Dion (but she wasn't there that night—she is however, in their second album, Ancora). On another seat was Sony BMG sales king Narciso Chan, who was visibly moved as well. That's how far reaching their music is. I must admit that, even if this is my second encounter with these guys (the first one was in Sydney, Australia, at The Establishment)—and they still manage to surprise me, to draw out the goosebumps from their audiences during their performances. I guess these guys just know how to express the love in their music, however they are worded, they all use the emotional Esperanto of Love.

The four of them share the lead all through out, combining to deliver the choruses whose awesome power is matched by their tonal delicacy. "Their auras are so luminous—I guess that's what happens when you really love what you're doing," observed our Miss Universe Miriam. Their passion for their music shows to be an irresistible aphrodisiac.

Here are Super excerpts from our chillax chat right before their show. Go ahead and swoon.



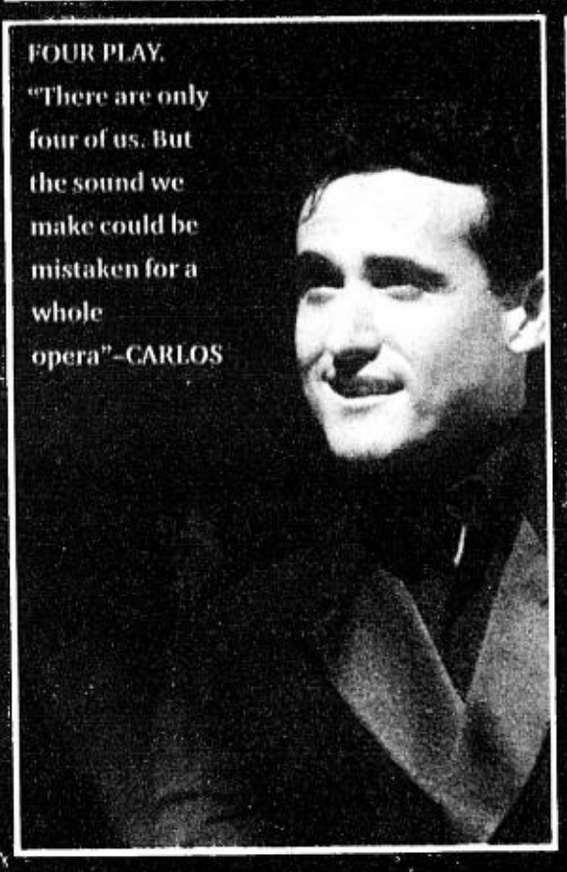
ROCKSTAR INXS. "It reminds me of Queen minus the guitars"–URS



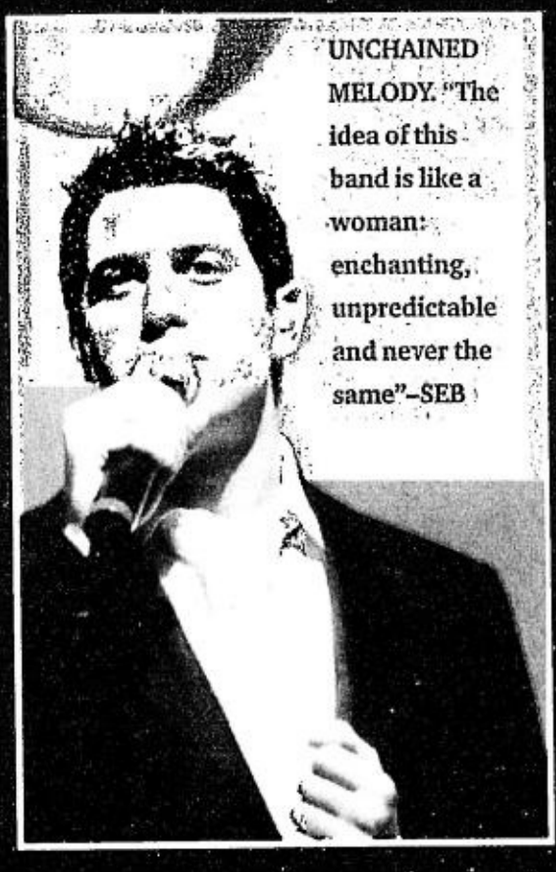
SOUND EVOLUTION. "Since our first day into the studio. The Il Divo sound has been evolving and what we've created now is something completely new and exciting"–DAVID

DAMES FOR DIVOS. Julia Clarceller, Marilou Martinez, Rhiza Pascua and Emily Campos

BELIEVE IN IL DIVO. Darling De Jesus, GMA exec Wilma Galvante, Miriam Quiambao, Tim Yap and Ricky Lo



FOUR PLAY. "There are only four of us. But the sound we make could be mistaken for a whole opera"–CARLOS



UNCHAINED MELODY. "The idea of this band is like a woman: enchanting, unpredictable and never the same"–SEB

IL DIVO aficionado Baby Arenas

KAPUSO NARCISO Chan, Wilma Galvante, Ricky Lo and Rudy Tee

**Is this you're first time in Asia?**

It's our second time in Asia; technically, it's our third. We performed in the Ms World Competition in China, we spent a week in Tokyo about a month ago and now we are here.

**Prior to this, you have been to Monaco when you sang for the prince. How was the experience?**

That was really good and really quick. We arrived in the morning and left that night after the show because we still have to perform in UK the next morning. There, we saw Giorgio Armani, some really good performers like Ozzy Osbourne, Bon Jovi, etc.

**What is the difference between your first and second album?**

Well the second album actually tends towards the pop side in terms of choice of songs. It was easier to record the second album because in the first album we had to figure out where we wanted to take it. We didn't know each other, we didn't know each other's voices. So we had to make a concept on how we were gonna share the songs, things like that. For the second album, we basically just went to the studio and spent six weeks in recording compared to the four months we had in making the first one.

**So now, after a year and a half, is there anything new you've learned about each other that other people don't know?**

We know each other very well and we have a fantastic relationship. We're now like brothers. It's been great.

**After this, where will you guys go?**

We're going to Sydney for four days and then we're going to New Zealand and we're going back to London for three hours to take the plane to Barcelona. It's been crazy.

**It's a good thing you guys know your schedules...**

Of course, we have a great manager. He makes sure everything's ready.

**How was it working with Celine Dion in your second album?**

There's an interesting story behind it. We didn't record the song together because of our schedules. She recorded her part in Montreal and we did ours in Sweden. But when we listened to it, it sounded like we made a fantastic duet. But we got the chance to sing with her when we were in Paris. It was great. We just walked in, shook hands and then we were like, "Okay, let's go sing!" It was a very fantastic chemistry. It's as if we've been performing the song for years so it was a lot of fun.

**Besides Celine Dion, who do you want to collaborate with?**

Bjork! Uhm, Monica Bellucci? We know she doesn't sing but we can make her do it when she's with us! Haha! Barbara Streisand, Mariah Carey! We might have a project with her but nothing's final yet.

**With the grueling schedules you guys have traveling all over the world, do you still have time to go crazy?**

Everyday! It's crazy enough. Everytime we go to a country, we try to see the city by night, especially with good weather and beautiful girls!

**How do you guys prepare before a performance? Any rigorous rituals?**

Not really, we just sleep early and rest. Then after, we do vocal warm-ups.

**Any message to your fans in Manila?**

Be careful, girls. Haha!

# Super Friends

Text and photos by David Milan

**Bianca Crisologo**

I love to be seen with my: Pretty posse—The Edit! and my boyfriend Terence

I can't live without: My passion for fashion... Life would be too dull without all my shoes to be addicted! Shoes I can get almost anywhere as long as I like them, but when it comes to bags, I adore Dior baby!

Email me at: bianca@yahoo.com

**Carissa Mangubat**

I love to be seen with my: smile

I can't live without: My friends and chocolate cake

The unique thing about me is: There's more to me than meets the eye

Email me at: c_arissa@yahoo.com

**Trina Domingo**

I love to be seen with my: bestfriend :)

I can't live without: my ability to charm people and my gigolo

Email me at: trin1488@yahoo.com

**Stacy Rodriguez**

I love to be seen with: fascinating, fun and quirky people

The unique thing about me is: My good eye for things I've always been told to have the ability to pick out exceptional things amid trash.

Email me at: stacia1112@yahoo.com

**Diego Jose**

I love to be seen with my: girl and close friends

I can't live without: The Internet and my laptop

The unique thing about me is: that I'm a techie and a natural freak

Email me at soccerjoe5@yahoo com

**Iyane Uy**

I love to be seen with my: Boyfriend Hans

I can't live without: My bottled water (I love water!)

The unique thing about me is: I have a unique sense attitude who embraces life to the fullest

Email me at: uy_daniela@yahoo.com

**Thomerson Yao**

I love to be seen with my: close friends

I can't live without: my dep10 gel!!

The unique thing about me is: my laugh

Email me at: thomerson55@gmail.com

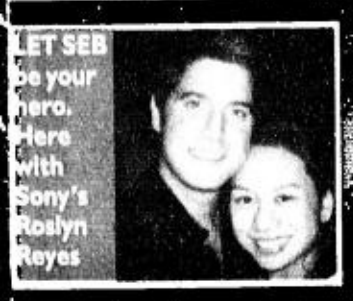
**Janthina Fong**

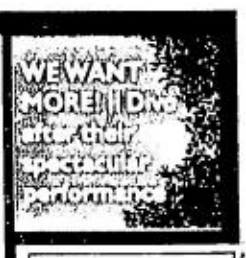
I love to be seen with my: family and friends! My dog especially! I make a fool out of myself a lot of the time

I can't live without: My sense of humor, I don't know one I know can attest to that!

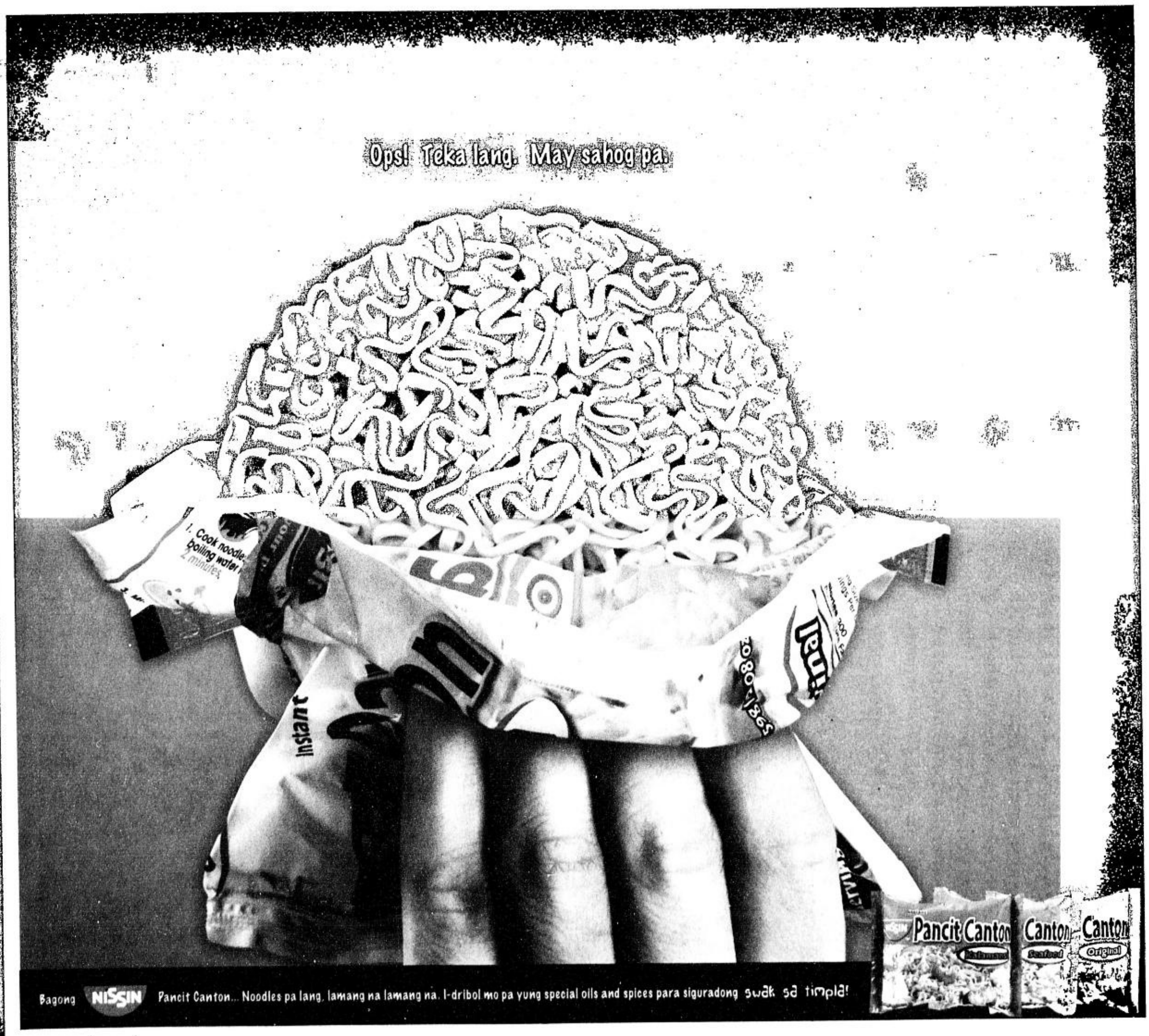
The unique thing about me is: I'm both book smart & street smart. I can spend time doing shopping while reading a good book and walking thru a museum

Email me at: janthinafong@gmail.com






**OUR BAD:** Kate Torralba made the outfit of our last week's cover star Astrud Crisologo



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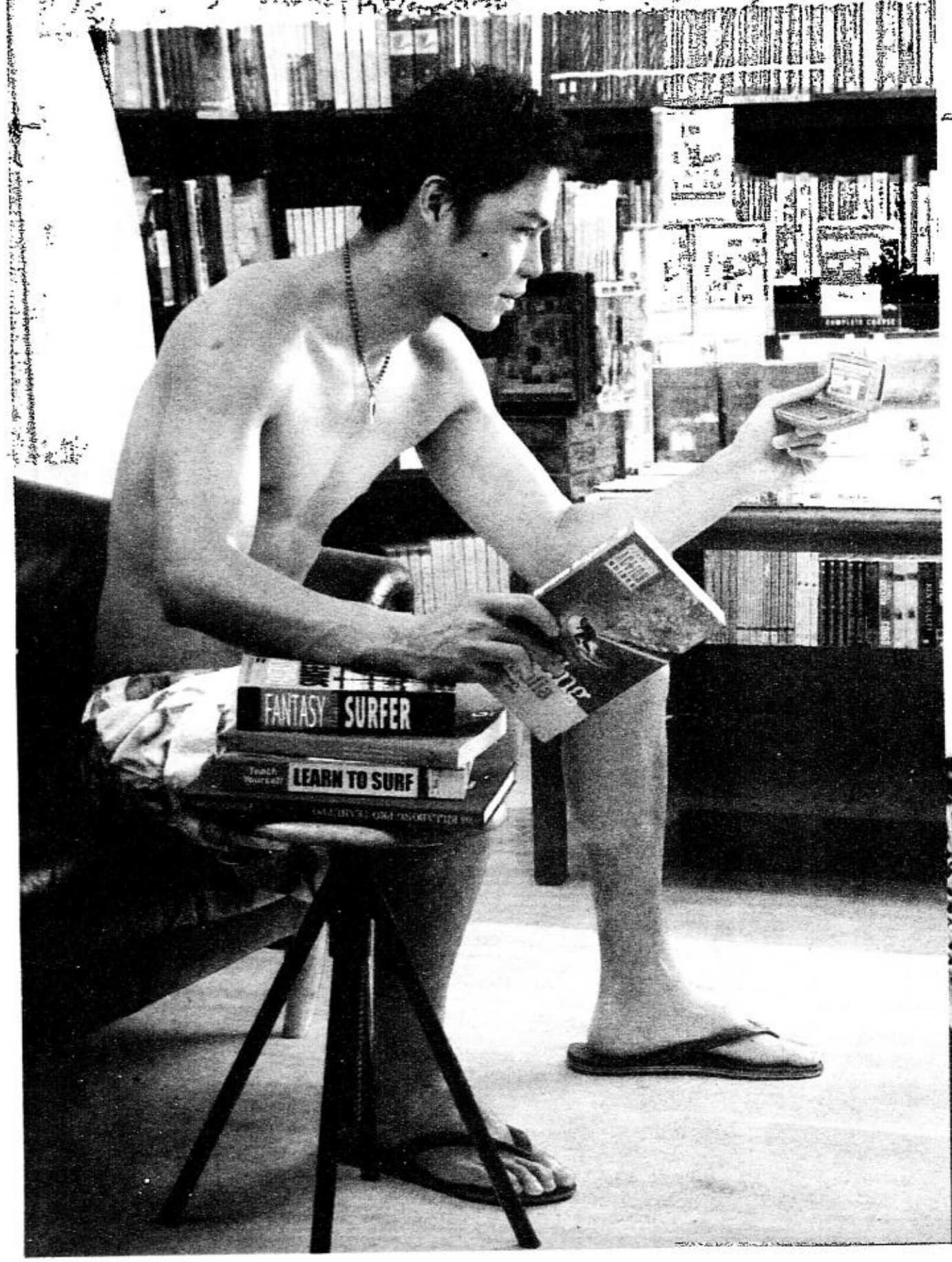


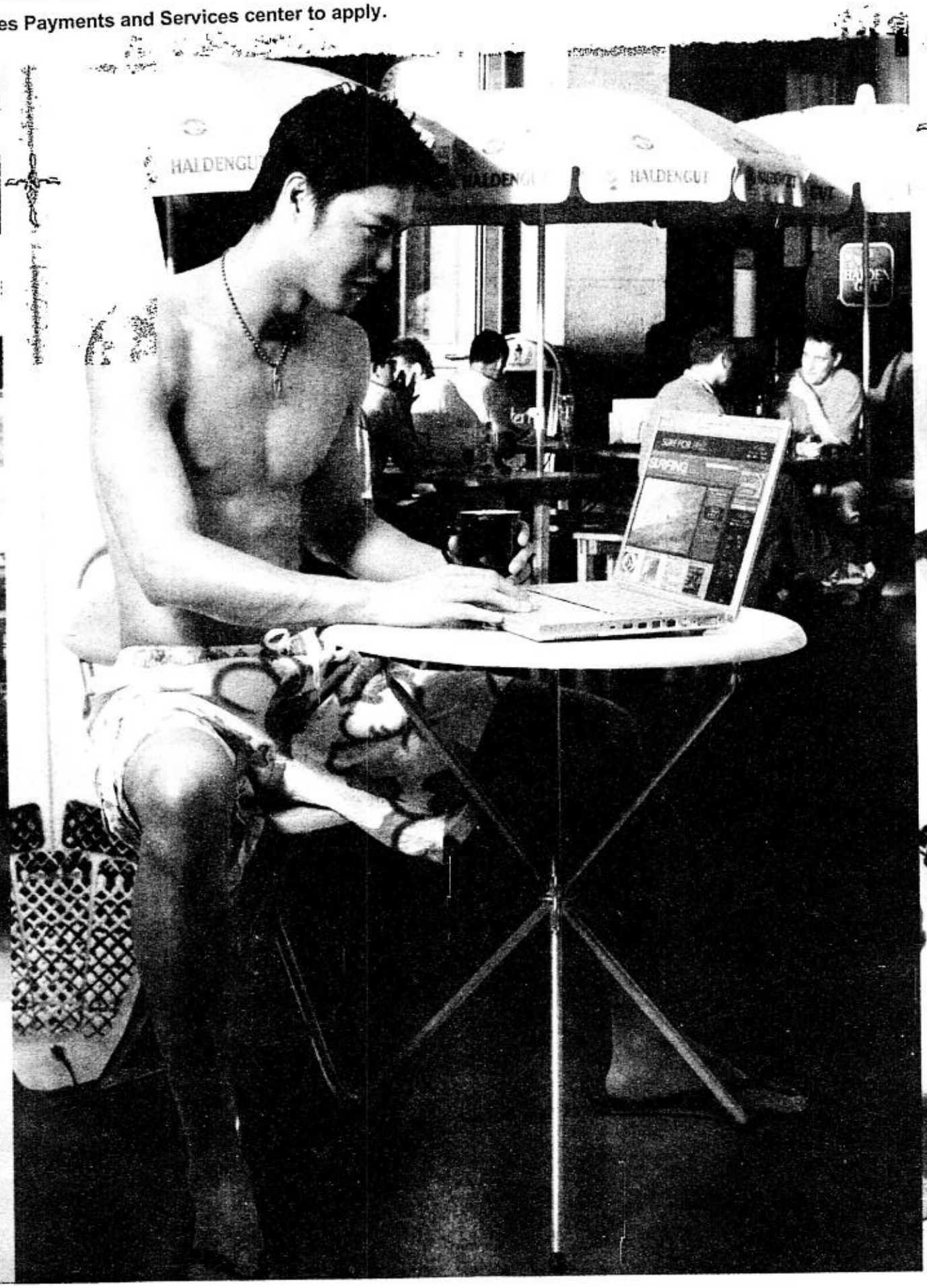

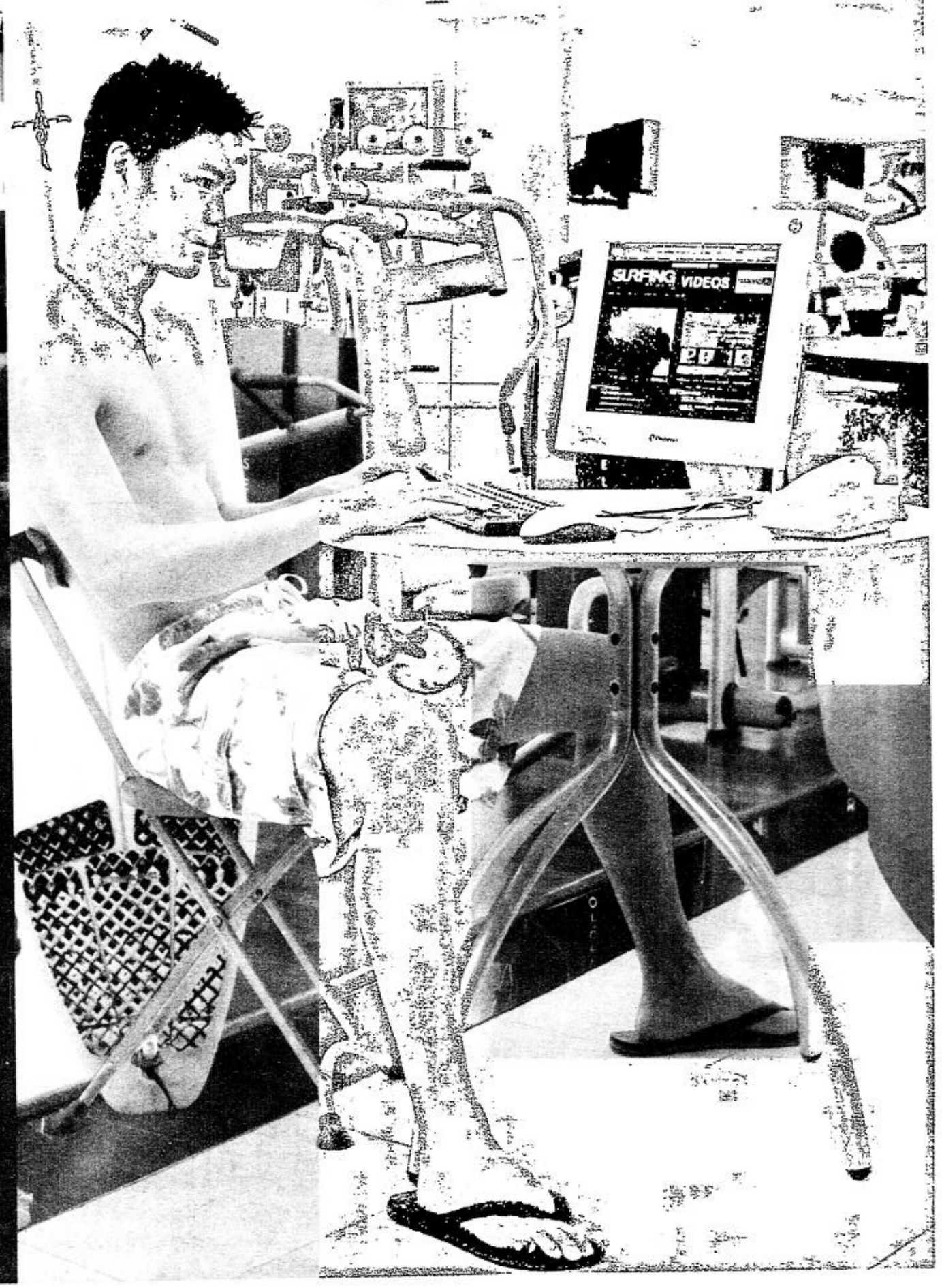

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# The sides of Being Square

**Beyond the runway**

Raya Mananquil

LATELY MY FRIEND Nicolette has taken an interest in learning yoga from me. "It'll help clear my aura," she says. In fact, for quite sometime now, she has tried to venture on a more meaningful path—borrowing books written by the Dalai Lama, promising me that she would quit smoking and drinking, and even cutting down on her meat intake. Having a model's life of glitz, glamor and fame, she finds herself torn between endless partying with her friends and finding solitary happiness. "But," she adds, "I don't want to become a square like you."

Yes, you could say I'm a bit of a square. After all, my favorite beverage is water. Worse, I carry a water bottle with me all the time for I always ensure that I get my eight glasses a day. I cannot even bring myself to drink a fizzy sweet soda, or even a cool mocha frappuccino. If I felt daring, I would indulge in a fruit smoothie without added sugar.

It is not rare that people have wrinkled their nose at me as I chew on my salad, tofu and red rice. I discourage our cook from putting any salt in the dishes, and eating anything fried would be a rare occasion. Being a former "unhealthy vegetarian"—snacking on potato chips and snarfing on cheese pizza, I can now savor dishes that most people will consider cardboard tasting.

Before you start feeling sorry for me, let me reassure you that I'm happy to have chosen this lifestyle. My primary reason for having a vegetarian diet was because of my love for animals. Sure, that hamburger was tasty, but knowing that a helpless cow was tortured in the process just wasn't worth satisfying my taste buds anymore. I now drool for tofu burgers with soy cheese, which I give two paws up.

I recently experienced the ultimate meatless gastronomical delight at Peta's (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) 25th anniversary gala at Paramount Studios, California. From veggie kebabs to soy ice cream, I shamelessly gorged on the cruelty-free dishes.

The first principle of the eight-limbed path or ashtanga yoga is *ahimsa*, which means nonharming. The yogic path is one that paves the way to enlightenment and self-realization, not to violence and suffering. Perhaps even more challenging than nonharming towards animals and other people, is nonharming to ourselves.

Perhaps most people don't even realize that even the most mundane actions can agglomerate into self-destruction. An obvious example would be smoking endless packs of cigarettes everyday, it is only a matter of time before that person wakes up one day and discovers he has cancer. One who lives to eat may find himself suffering from heart disease, obesity, or diabetes.

These actions not only affect the physical body, but affect us in a deeper and more subtle manner. Many who practice *hatha* yoga believe in harmonizing the body as they perform the *asanas* or postures, the mind with calm mental and emotional focus, as well as the *prana* or life force. I personally have found yoga not only a physical experience, but an ontological one as well—I have discovered my body's limitations and therefore becomes a humbling experience. But also, the more I open my body, the more I open my mind and heart.

However one does not need to twist and turn themselves into positions in order be a yogi or yogini. The dedicated teacher finds happiness in educating the youth; the hardworking carpenter experiences bliss in building homes for others; the loving nurse who feels compassion in caring for her patients—these are all mindful actions that have profound effects on our being.

*"Keep my thoughts positive*
*For my thoughts become my behaviors*
*Keep my behaviors positive*
*For my behaviors become my habits*
*Keep my habits positive,*
*For my habits become my values*
*Keep my values positive*
*For my values become my destiny"*

–Gandhi

So Nicolette, if you're reading this, you needn't worry about turning into a square. In fact, you might be pleasantly surprised how well-rounded and balanced your life might become. So go ahead and enjoy; you will soon find a true source of happiness that comes from within, a happiness that no one else can ever give you.

* * *

Come to the Family Wellness Festival today and tomorrow, Nov. 12 and 13 at the La Mesa Ecopark, East Fairview, Quezon City. Try vegetarian and organic dishes at the food bazaar, or join classes and workshops in Yoga, Zen Mediation, Aikido, Chi Gong and more. All funds raised go to the rehabilitation efforts to save the La Mesa Watershed. For more information, call 430-4051.

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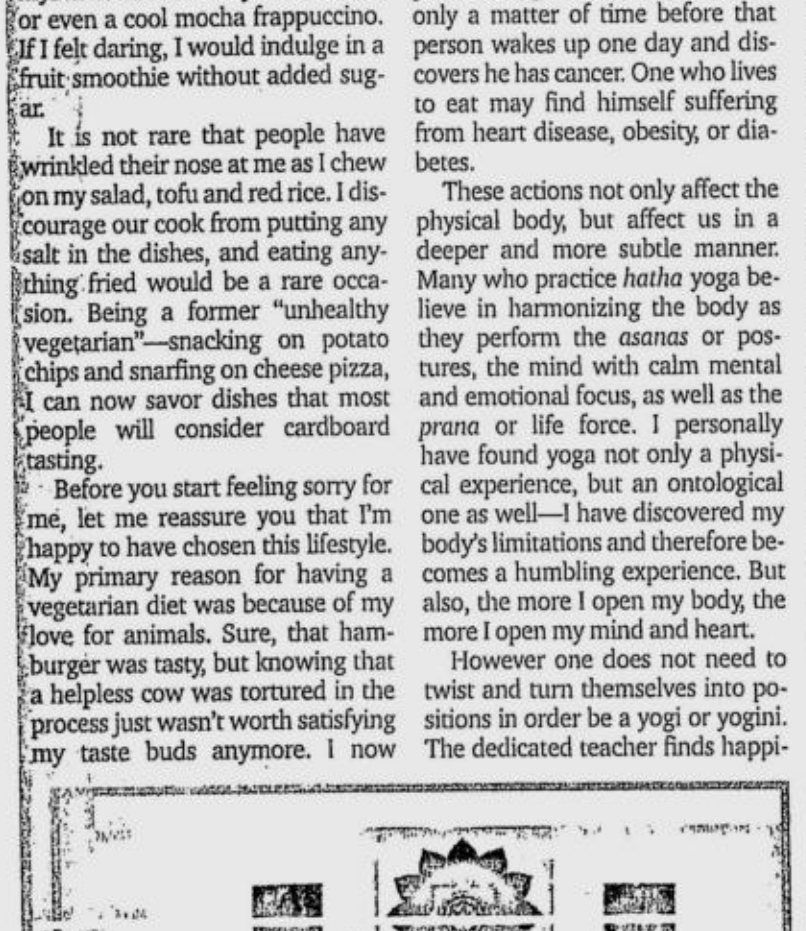

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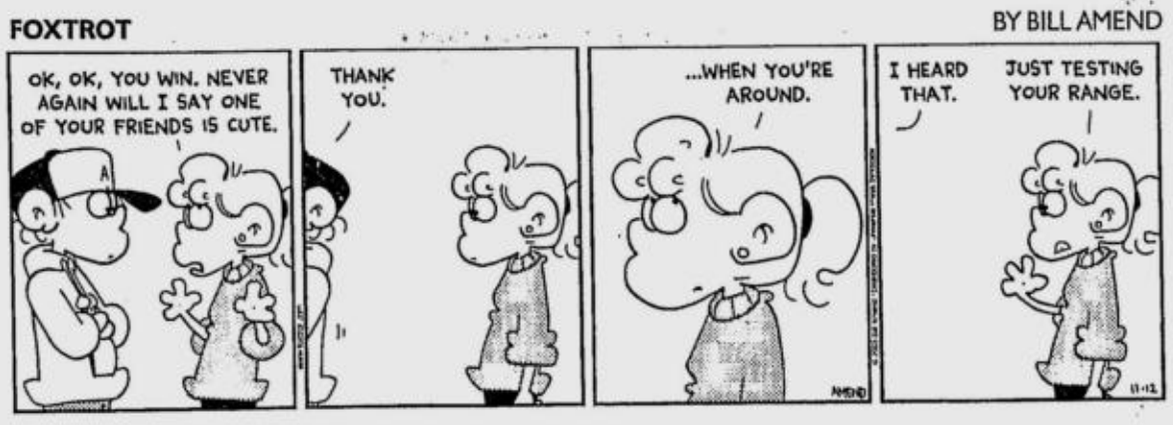
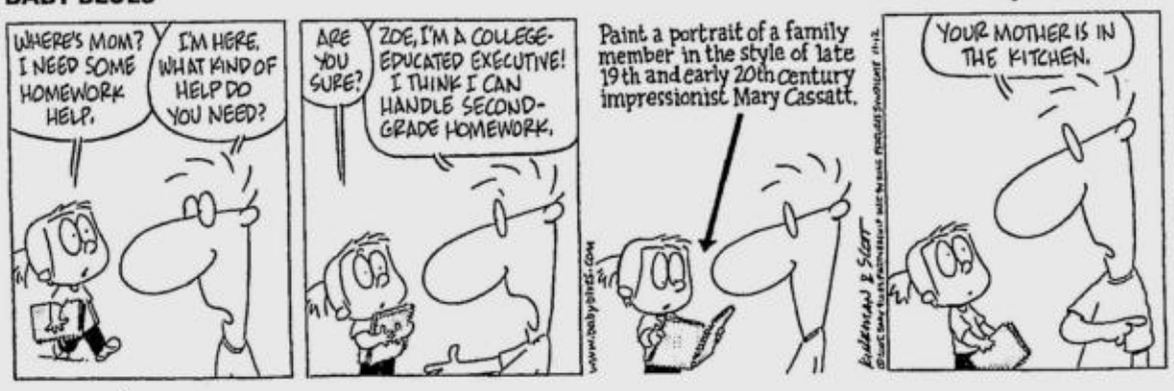



**A. LIPIN** BY JESS ABRERA

**MARVIN** BY TOM ARMSTRONG

**PUGAD BABOY** BY P.M. JUNIOR

**BABY BLUES** BY JERRY SCOTT

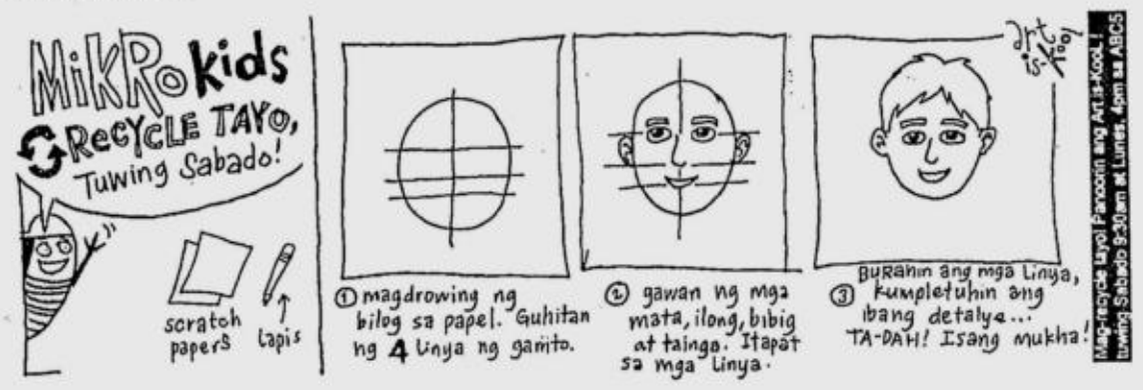



**MUTTS** BY PATRICK McDONNELL

**ATOMO AND WEBOY** BY LYRA GARCELLANO

**DIVINE COMEDY** BY STEVEN PABALINAS

**MIKROKOSMOS** BY JOMIKE TEJIDO




**BEN** BY DANIEL SHELTON

**KIKO MACHINE** BY MANIX ABRERA

**LOVEKNOTS** BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

**TULDOK** BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

# HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You are very attractive and seductive in the eyes of others. (Most of you know this about yourselves.) And you're also very wise. You have a worldly sophistication that is enviable. Because you have a strong inner core, you know how to cope with whatever happens in your life. Important choices await you this year. Choose wisely.
**Birthdate of:** Sammy Sosa, baseball player; Grace Kelly, princess/actress; Neil Young, singer.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** In the next few weeks, matters related to publishing, the media, higher education and travel will definitely be delayed. However, you might hear from old friends from far away.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** The next few weeks will be a good time to finish up old business connected with insurance, inheritances, shared property, taxes and debt. It's boring, red-tape stuff, but you'll make great progress!

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** Your ruler, Mercury, goes retrograde today. Old partners are back in your life. You cannot avoid running into ex-spouses and people from the past. (Look your best.)

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** Now and in the next few weeks, delays, confused communications, lost papers and silly errors will plague you at work. It's minor stuff, but it's annoying. Keep smiling.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** Ex-lovers are back on the scene. You might hear from old flames you had long forgotten. (Actually, Leos never forget their love affairs.)

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** Relatives you haven't heard from for a while are on your doorstep. Stock the fridge. Family discussions about the bad old days are likely now and in the next few weeks.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** Pay your phone bill. Interruptions to your daily communications are likely now and in the next few weeks. Transportation problems will delay you as well. (Courage.)

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** Mixed-up communications, misunderstandings, delays, confusion and silly little errors are unavoidable now, especially related to your possessions and how you earn your money. You keep losing things!

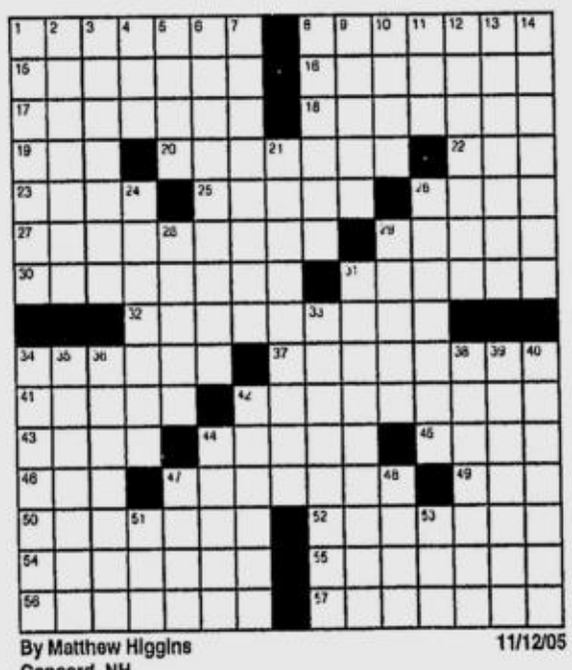
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** Don't be worried if you feel like you're horribly inefficient. You're not losing it. Mercury retrograde causes you to misplace keys, books, papers and people! Just cope as best you can during the month ahead.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** The next few weeks will be an excellent time to finish up old business connected with the government and large institutions. Go back in time and do it right.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** Old friends surprise you now. Since you value friendship, you'll love running into faces from your past now and in the next few weeks. Invite the gang over!

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** Bosses and authority figures confuse you now. They say one thing one day, then contradict themselves the next! Sigh. It was ever thus.

# DAILY CROSSWORD



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH
11/12/05

**ACROSS**
1 Do away with
8 Western Indian coast
15 Double-deck game
16 Italian lover
17 Requiring more mastication
18 Highest
19 Meal's uneaten fragment
20 "The Shooting of Dan McGrew" poet
22 Call for ewe
23 Stated
25 Spinet, e.g.
26 Act petulant
27 Faint-hearted state
29 Wild Asian dog
30 Lip curlers
31 Lovers' assignations
32 Root-bark flavoring
34 Pluses
37 Like the richest soil
41 Moves effortlessly
42 Tenacious hull clingers
43 Large wine casks
44 Profoundly wise men
45 Withered
46 Gershwin or Levin
47 Absent with permission
49 VFW member
50 Word-for-word
52 Wickerwork palms
54 George Bernard Shaw play, "Major __"
55 Sea cow
56 Made possible
57 Some roofers

**DOWN**
1 Waylays
2 Manama's country
3 Former
4 Statute
5 Goddess of fertility
6 Verticality
7 Marsh hawk's kin
8 Morning prayer
9 __ Cadiz (infamous tanker)
10 Steady, easy gait
11 Equip with weapons
12 Childish mistakes
13 Violent attack
14 Turns around and around
21 Servitude
24 Locomotive engines
26 High school subject
28 Euphemistic oath
29 Serious story
31 Area settled by Boers
33 Locations of ulnae
34 Spirea
35 Of lizards
36 Old Blue Eyes
38 Raise up
39 Even more tranquil
40 Sleeping sickness carriers
42 "The __ of the Sad Cafe"
44 Entrap
47 One type of exam
48 Sicilian volcano
51 Outflow of the tide
53 Make lace

**Friday's Puzzle Solved**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | C | A | R | E | | C | O | B | | G | H | O | S | T |
| P | A | D | U | A | | H | U | R | | L | O | V | E | R |
| A | L | O | E | S | | O | R | E | | I | T | A | L | Y |
| C | Y | P | R | E | S | S | S | W | A | M | P | | | |
| E | X | T | | S | E | E | | | S | P | O | N | G | E |
| | | W | I | T | N | E | S | S | S | T | A | N | D | |
| G | R | E | E | N | | | D | O | T | E | | D | O | G |
| R | O | L | E | | B | O | G | U | S | | L | I | M | A |
| A | G | E | | C | A | K | E | | | P | A | R | E | R |
| S | U | C | C | E | S | S | S | T | O | R | Y | | | |
| P | E | T | A | L | S | | | A | D | O | | A | S | H |
| | | C | L | O | U | D | L | E | S | S | S | K | Y | |
| J | E | T | T | A | | T | I | E | | P | O | P | U | P |
| A | M | O | U | R | | A | N | N | | E | F | I | L | E |
| G | U | E | S | S | | H | E | T | | R | A | C | K | S |

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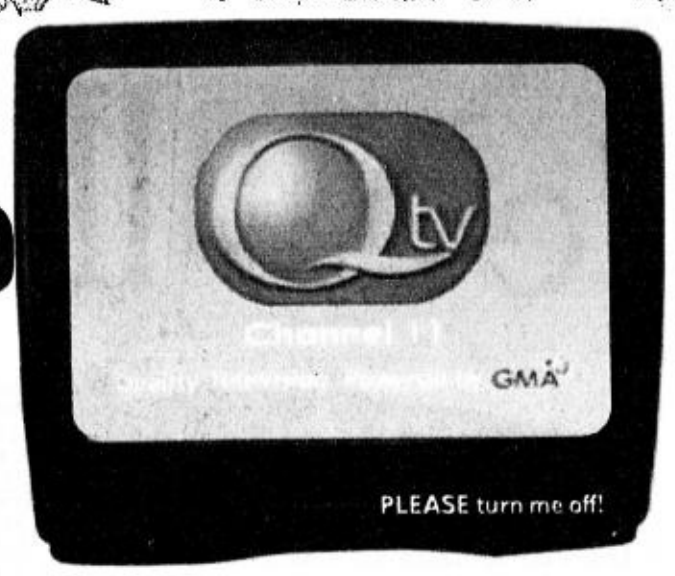
11/12/05

# The QTV jumps over the *What?*

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno



*KAKAININ kita!* (I will eat you!)

**Your essential Super! guide to QTV**

MOVE OVER, IBC 13 (*CHOWTIME Na!*), RJTV (*Jojo A. All the Way!*), and *Winner TV Shopping* (Suzy Guttler!), there's a new brotha' in town! (Well, he's actually more of a sistah.)

QTV is GMA 7's little baby. Don't worry, it isn't here to inflict pain and suffering on the entire human kind. It's only here to inflict pain and suffering on teen to middle-age females who watch local television. (If it works, population control—not a problem.)

According to the GMA website, QTV's programming is "fresh, female and family-oriented." Female, check. Family-oriented (yeah, if you want your little boys to prance around like fairies). Fresh? Not exactly.

Anyway, the folks at IBC 13 are trembling. And so are eager advertisers itching to reach out to Manang Tiring and a girl named Wynwin. There's an audience for QTV—and it'll score, no doubt. (Hey, if Joel Lamangan movies can, so can QTV.) But it doesn't mean the station's good—and that it's good for society. Oh god, let us pray.

Here's a rundown of what they have to offer:

### 'Candies'

Starring Inah Estrada (daughter of Janice de Belen), Wynwin Marquez (daughter of Alma Moreno) and Alynna Asistio (daughter of Nadia Montenegro), this show is about the hottest teen trends and concerns of the youth, and we're not talking about the hosts. (Hey, Dove! New models!)

Two lines sum up how good this show is: "We're sweeet *sama sama*/ C-A-N-D-I-E-S" to the tune of Hollaback Girl. Spectacular.

### 'Fans Kita'

Starring Rainier Castillo, Yasmien Kurdi, Benj Pacia, and other annoying unknown Starstruck contestants, this is the "ultimate fans' show that gives you a sneak peek into the lives of celebrities." (And wannabe celebrities.) Interesting... very interesting, this Benj Pacia guy.

### 'Ginang Fashionista'

Starring Melanie Marquez, Ginang Fashionista herself, this show promises to make the dreams of housewives come true by making them over into Melanie Marquez. Are there any takers?

This show is so intelligent, the concept so original, the tagline so serious—"It's not your problem anymore. It's our problem anymore!"

### 'Laugh to Laugh ... Ang Kulit!'

(How can they think these shows up? *Ang kulit!*)

Starring the Jaboom Twins and Anjo Yllana's chubby brother whose name we do not know and don't care to know, this show features Chinese, Taiwanese, and Korean gags... in Filipino! Again, this is mindblowing!

### 'Ay, Robot!'

Starring Ogie Alcasid, Ryza Cenon, CJ Muere, and some unknown kids, this proves that QTV is the dumping ground for GMA stars we all thought had been run over by cars. Knock on wood. This show is about a little doll who turns into a life-sized robot. The doll isn't played by Ogie Alcasid. (Okay, now no one's gonna watch the show.)

### 'Let's Get Aww!'

Starring Aira, Johlan, and Cheche of the Sex Bomb Dancers, this show is a televised aerobics class featuring the girls gyrating and grinding, to the pleasure of the MTRCB *lolos* and *lolas*. Perfect for mothers. It's also a testament to how you can think of any funny *chipeaps* name, call them a Sex Bomb Dancer, and give them their own show. Amen, *mga* handler!

### 'O, Mare Ko!'

Starring Lorna Tolentino, Sandy Andolong, Amy Austria and Gina Alajar aka stars of the 1845 movie, *Tama Na, Apo!** this show is a copy of *Desperate Housewives* and proud to be one. Only in the Philippines!

Sandy is a separated mother of two. Gina is a happy-go-lucky old maid. Amy is a "not-so-smart" OFW. Lorna is a happily-married woman with a sharp mind for business. Three words sum up this show: not so smart.

DREAM, BELIEVE, THEY'RE STILL ALIVE!! Clockwise from top: Mr. Christian Esteban, Mr. Benj Pacia, Ms Megan Young, Ms Yasmien Kurdi, Mr. Rainier Castillo and Ms Ailyn Luna pose for Super!

### 'Moms'

Starring Lani Mercado and Sherilyn Reyes, this show is about ... moms. It was probably created for the two rejects of *O, Mare Ko!* Sorry, ladies! Enjoy motherhood!

### 'Ganda ng Lola Ko!'

Starring Ms Camille Pratts, Kirby de Jesus (the one who looks like Jollibee) and (drum roll) Ms Bella Flores, this is a sitcom about (drum roll) Camille Pratts.

### 'That's Entertainment'

It's baaaaack!!!! To all the fans of Kuya Germs, let us thank him for making our showbiz industry what it is today. Thank you Kuya Germs. We wanna be part of the Tuesday group!!!

### 'Ultimate Celebrity Dancer'

Starring RnB Prince Jay-R, this show probably features ultimate celebrity dancers like Gloria Romero, Camille Pratts, Angelica Panganiban, Shaina Magdayao, and Camille Pratts. Winner.

### 'Groupee TV'

A la Friendster, this is the first online community on the tube. We don't get it. What's it about? For now ... we can only speculate. Or, stop this 'cause we don't really care. All we know is that peeps from LinkTV like girlygay (annoying!!!) and *lonely-poh-akoh* are going to be all over this.

### The problem with Q

You know what the whole problem with QTV is? It's a problem of the entire Filipino entertainment business—and the MTRCB. Hey, freaks — wholesome is not always equal to quality. They're two entirely different things. Shows like *Lost*, *CSI*, *Nip/Tuck*—they're not wholesome, but they're qua-li-ty. Shows like *Candies* and *Fans Kita*—they're wholesome, but they suck.

We take this opportunity to sound like Robert de Niro. "You think ya' quality? Ha? Ha? Ya don't know quality if it stared at 'ya." End case.

**not a real movie*

## Shows *We'd* like to see on QTV!

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno

THESE QTV PEOPLE HAVE IT ALL wrong. It's not about femininity. Televison is all about death, destruction and Ricky Reyes.

Here are the shows that we'll be pitching to the execs next season.

### 'Survivor *ni* Joel Lamangan'

Dying actors and actresses are stuck on an island in the Visayas because of SARS. Everyday they slap each other in the face and utter phrases like, "*Ako*, legal wife!" and "*Ako ang tunay mong ina*, Jessica." Featuring sweeping camera movements, overpowering orchestral music, and bad editing, the Ultimate Survivor will be the person who manages to have a realization in the end. Theme song by Yasmien Kurdi.

### 'Manangs Behaving Badly'

Middle-aged women play pranks on fellow middle-aged women while they're in line for either *Sis*, *Homeboy* or a Rosa Rosal blood donation event. Pranks include "*Ay, si* Willy Revillame!" and "*Ay, si* Camille!"

### 'Extreme Makeover'

Every episode, a lucky letter sender knocks their chosen loved one out by either a punch, or by watching an episode of "Daisy Siete." Then comes a group of cosmetic surgeons who perform various operations on the lucky love one. When he/she wakes up, she has undergone a full transformation ... and looks like Vicky Belo. This show is hosted by Vicky Belo. Sponsored by Ever Bilena.

### 'The Apprentice: Ricky Reyes'

Instead, of saying "You're Fired!" Ricky says, "*Panget mo, noh?*" Tasks include ... philanthropic stuff like making wigs for bald people, producing shows for ABC5, and designing the "That's Entertainment" set. "The Apprentice" will get a chance to be a manicurist of Ricky Reyes Salon Navotas (it's open 24 hours!).

### The O.C. Alabang featuring three Paref school kids

Like, you know, it's a different world these three Paref kids live in, like they're not in the third world. This show will narrate their stories as they ride their scooters around Alabang Town Center, sip hot choco in Alabang Town Center, and chit chat about Lindsay Lohan's latest car accident in Alabang Town Center. Like, The O.C. Alabang is like a microcosm of posh suburb living, or what it is like to live in delusion.


# Career Chic

You can fast-track your career all the way to the top with fantastic features exclusively from the Metrobank Femme Visa, the credit card for the working woman! As a wonderful welcome gift for the Metrobank Femme Visa cardholder, we're giving away one quarter free subscription to Mega Magazine when the card is used for the first time.

Also, Metrobank Femme Visa cardholders get priority access to career opportunities via their enrollment to JobsDB.com. This job alert service offers the juiciest job openings exclusive for Metrobank Femme Visa cardholders. Metrobank Femme Visa will also be conducting Career Femme Sessions on various women's concerns – career, family, culture, health and beauty, among others.

Metrobank Femme Visa cardholders are allowed to earn reward points that will bring them closer to bagging fabulous finds and interesting items, or may even convert them to air miles from Cathay Pacific, Philippine Airlines or Singapore Airlines! They will also receive Femme Works, the official newsletter for the woman on top. Get the latest scoop on shopping, wellness, career, horoscope, discounts, and fantastic finds!

And for those in need of thatcareer-enhancing fashion makeover, one lucky lady will be randomly selected monthly for a P10,000 shopping credit to her Femme Visa! That's more shopping money for that new you!

For more info and details on the Metrobank Femme Visa, visit your nearest Metrobank branch or call 8-700-700.

Woman on top.

Now, a credit card that offers all the privileges a working woman deserves.

And to welcome the woman of the Metrobank Femme Visa, we're giving away a free three-month subscription to Mega Magazine and offering other features especially for the career woman! Call 8-700-700 for details.

Woman on top.

In partnership with MEGA JobsDB.com WORKINGMOM

You're in good hands with METROBANK

# LoveMall Aboard!

## All tracks lead to Ayala Malls this Christmas

**Mall You Want for Christmas**

Free Christmas Bag
from December 1 to 31
at the Glorietta &
December 1 to 24
Alabang Town Center

Free Gift Wrapper for a single receipt
of P1,000 from November 18 to
December 23 Ayala Center Cebu

MARKET! MARKET!
The fun is in the finds

December 7 and 8
at the Activity Center
Thomas
Christmas Surprise
Live Musical Show

Fireworks Display
7PM
November 20 & 27
December 4, 11, 18 & 25

November 20
6:30PM at the Activity Center
Children's Loboc Choir
Ceremonial Lighting of
Christmas Decors
8PM Fireworks Display

December 15-18
Activity Center
Thomas
Christmas
Surprise
Live Musical Show

Fireworks Display
8PM
November
18, 19, 20 & 28
December
3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 23 & 30

AYALA CENTER CEBU

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

November 20
6PM at the Activity Center
Live Concert featuring
Pops Fernandez with the
Manila Philharmonic Orchestra
7:45PM at the Town Plaza
Fireworks Display

December 9-12
Activity Center
Thomas
Christmas
Surprise
Live Musical Show

Fireworks Display
6:45PM at the
Town Plaza
All Saturdays
and Sundays
starting November 20
until December 18

November 13
5:30PM at the
Glorietta 4 Park
Holy Eucharist
6:30PM
Live concert with Jaya,
Jay-R & South Border
8PM
Fireworks Display

December 2-4
Activity Center
Thomas
Christmas
Surprise
Live Musical Show

Fireworks Display
8PM at the Glorietta 4 Park
and 8PM at the Greenbelt 3 Park
All Fridays, Saturdays
and Sundays
starting November 13
until December 31

AYALA CENTER GLORIETTA

AYALA CENTER GLORIETTA · ALABANG TOWN CENTER · AYALA CENTER CEBU · MARKET! MARKET! The fun is in the finds · AYALA MALLS LoveMall!

AYALA MALLS SHOPPING HOURS ARE EXTENDED DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON. FOR DETAILS, PLEASE CALL OUR CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE NUMBERS.
MAKATI 752-7272 · ALABANG TOWN CENTER 842-2782 · MARKET MARKET 866-7519 · CEBU (032) 231-5342 LOC 342 www.ayalamalls.com.ph

The schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

■ LIFESTYLE / E2
Step-by-step guide to decorating big spaces with holiday cheer

■ SIM / Q7
How busy-as-bees couple finds health, happiness, honey

■ NEWS / A2
Cop forced me to cry gang rape, says US Marines' van driver

■ METRO / A20
There's no stopping blazing Christmas on Policarpio Street, Mandaluyong

## Muslim prayer hall, dorm, cafeteria to rise in UP

By Volt Contreras

THE ISKOLAR NG BAYAN IS IN FOR A "CONcrete" lesson in cultural diversity.

A proposed complex featuring a Mushallah, or Islamic prayer hall, and dormitories catering to Muslim students has been granted space on the University of the Philippines

MUSLIM/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

## Cockfighters join campaign to keep RP bird-flu-free

By Christine Gaylican

THE BIRD YOU SAVE may be your own.

Filipino breeders and owners of fighting cocks have joined the national campaign to

COCKFIGHTERS/ A7

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Sunday, November 13, 2005 ★★ 13 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 338 P18
website: www.inq7.net

# GMA on VAT: I told you so

"SEDUCTIVE" is the often-heard comment of visitors to the Macaraeg-Macapagal ancestral home in Timoga, Iligan City, where this oil portrait of President Arroyo hangs. The artist Fred Alcantara painted Ms Arroyo when she was 34 in 1983. Now a museum, the house sits on 32 hectares, the idyllic setting for many happy summers in the President's childhood. EDWIN BACASMAS

## 'Peso is stronger, fuel prices are going down'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESTERDAY appeared to gloat over the peso's rebound and the continued fall in fuel prices nearly two weeks after the implementation of the expanded value-added tax, her pet revenue measure.

Beaming on state television, she said it was now time for doomsayers to come around and back her efforts to sustain the economic momentum.

"We thought the VAT reforms would take three years to bear fruit, but now, we are already seeing its fruits because it has led to a strengthening of the peso which has added more reason for fuel prices to go down," Ms Arroyo said in a TV forum where she herself acted as host and moderator.

Ms Arroyo said the peso had appreciated by almost P2—from more than 56 to the dollar to slightly over

GMA ON VAT/ A6

## GMA portrait top attraction in Iligan City ancestral home

By Christine Godinez-Ortega
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ILIGAN CITY—"SHE LOOKS INNOCENT [IN THE portrait]. It is a good likeness of her at that age. Certainly, an artist's portrayal of her," is how the Iligan artist Julie Lluch sums up her interpretation of Pres-

GMA PORTRAIT/ A6

## Priests, nuns find God, work as maids, janitors

By Christian V. Esguerra

ONE OF THEM IS A VIETNAMESE WORKING as a housemaid in a middle-class subdivision along Commonwealth Avenue. Another is a warehouseman in a popular gardening company. The third is a high-speed seamstress in a garments factory in Mandaluyong.

Members of two religious congregations are quietly taking odd jobs, from street sweeper to grave digger, not for the money but to pursue a lifelong mission: Find God among the faceless.

"We encounter God in the ordinary events of everyday life and that includes the workplace," Sister Lilette, a seamstress in the Mandaluyong factory, told the INQUIRER.

With deep faith, and skills to boot, she and other members of the Little Sisters of Jesus and the Little Brothers of Jesus are surprisingly landing jobs in a country of around 2.7 million unemployed and 6.6 million underemployed Filipinos.

They are among three international religious groups following the footsteps of the Blessed Charles de Focauld, the 19th century former French officer who rediscovered his Christian faith among Muslims in the African desert. He

PRIESTS/ A6

## Father Reuter: Ateneo heroism tradition dates back to Rizal

By Fe Zamora

WITH JOY, PRIDE AND HUMOR, 15 Ateneans, both living and dead, were honored yesterday as heroes at the Ateneo de Manila University campus in Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Led by Fr. James Reuter SJ, this year's batch of heroes included four student activists who were killed during martial law and eight graduates who joined the guerrilla movement during World War II.

Two other Jesuit priests—Fr. Romeo Intengan and Fr. Franciso Perez—were honored for their contributions to the resistance against martial law and the Japanese occupation, respectively.

"They have shown us love of God, and love of country. They are our heroes. This memorial affirms that

FATHER/ A7

**FR. JAMES REUTER, S.J. leads 15 Ateneans, living and dead, honored as heroes by the Ateneo de Manila on Saturday.** AUGUST DELA CRUZ

## *The Wizard's story told in comics, film*

ONCE UPON A TIME, IN THE Great Kingdom of Kir, three children were born within minutes of each other while a much-awaited star streaked across the sky. According to an ancient prophecy, the child born at the exact moment the star appeared would become the greatest wizard of all.

Who of the three children became the Wizard of the Enchanted Kingdom?

The Wizard is a familiar figure in the country's only world-class theme park. He's the one with the funny hat, long white beard and velvet robes speckled with yellow stars. He waves at the children and cheerfully poses for pictures.

Enchanted Kingdom celebrates its 10th anniversary this year by telling the story of the Wizard—his origins, his magical powers and how he uses them.

What are the magical spells that he casts? How did he get his powers?

THE WIZARD'S/ A6

**REINVENTING the legend behind the Wizard, the signature character of Enchanted Kingdom.**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2005

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly clourainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CHONA GALANO, PDI RESEARCH/04/07/05

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Cloudy with Rains | Iloilo/Bacolod | Rains |
| Baguio | Cloudy with Rains | Roxas | Rains |
| Tuguegarao | Cloudy with Rains | Cebu | Cloudy with Rains |
| Laoag | Cloudy with Rains | Tacloban | Cloudy with Rains |
| Clark Zone | Cloudy with Rains | Gen. Santos | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tagaytay | Cloudy with Rains | Zamboanga | Cloudy with Rains |
| Legazpi | Cloudy with Rains | Cagayan de Oro | Cloudy with Rains |
| Calapan | Rains | Davao | Cloudy with Rains |

# Cop forced me to cry gang rape, says driver

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE DRIVER OF THE VAN IN WHICH A 22-YEAR-old Filipino woman was allegedly raped by five Americans at the Subic Freeport, yesterday claimed he was punched twice by a police officer who wanted him to say that he had witnessed a gang rape.

Timoteo Soriano Jr., the driver of the Starex van rented by the suspects, was interviewed by Vice President Noli de Castro on the latter's dzMM radio program yesterday to clarify reports that he was taking back the statement that he had given to the police earlier.

Soriano told De Castro that he never told Fyke Torres, the police investigator who took down his statement, that he had witnessed the victim being "gang-raped" by the US Marines on Nov. 1.

"What I'm denying is the term 'gang rape.' I never said anything to the police about gang rape. But Fyke Torres punched me twice in the back and said he would charge me as an accomplice to rape if I denied the gang rape. What I'm saying is, I never said anything about gang rape, and I never witnessed the rape," Soriano said in Filipino.

He said two representatives from the United States Embassy – one of whom was an American and the other a Filipino saw Torres punch him.

Soriano stressed that only five Marines, not six as earlier reported, had ridden in his van, along with the victim.

The US Embassy, however, has taken into custody six US servicemen allegedly involved in the crime. They are Chad Carpenter, Daniel Smith, Corey Burris, Albert Lara, Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis. The six participated in the recent joint military exercises with the Philippine military.

### Drinking, hugging

According to Soriano's account, he saw the victim with Smith at the Neptune Bar in Subic and that the two were "drinking and hugging."

The two, along with a number of other guests at the bar, were doing "dirty dancing" on the dance floor, he said.

The victim, Smith and four other US servicemen came out of the bar, walked to his van, and asked him to drive them, Soriano said.

Asked if the victim was drunk, Soriano said in Filipino: "She was walking straight when she left the bar."

When he asked the group where they wanted to go, one of the Americans told him, "Just drive."

On the road, Soriano said he heard the girl and Smith arguing. He said Smith called her a "bitch" and the girl retorted that she was not one. There was silence afterward.

### View blocked

Soriano said he could not see what was happening as it was dark inside the van. When he did try to steal a glance through the rearview mirror, the backs of the four other Americans who were seated behind him blocked his view, he said.

"As they were getting off, one of the soldiers said, 'I'm done.' The four Americans got off first. Then I saw the girl's trousers were down but she was still wearing her shirt. The Americans helped her draw up her pants and then they all left the van," he said in Filipino.

Asked by De Castro if the girl was crying, Soriano said she was not. He said he and Carpenter then returned to Neptune Bar.

Soriano said his family had gone into hiding as they were being hounded by the media.

He also stressed that there had been no offer to him of any kind from the US Embassy in exchange for his retraction.

"I am not recanting what I said. What I am denying is the term gang rape because I never said that and I never saw it happen," he said.

### Too trusting

In Zamboanga City, people who knew the 22-year-old victim and her family said she was too "trusting" and that may have led to the rape.

A former male classmate and a girlfriend, who asked not to be named, said the victim was timid and shy though quick to make friends.

They said the victim's family ran an eatery in the Southern Command military headquarters in Zamboanga City.

The mother is a civilian employee at Southcom while the stepfather is a retired naval officer.

"No doubt she was befriended by many Americans and probably she trusted them so much, that's why she was abused," the former classmate said.

"She used to associate with some US personnel here and she must have presumed that she'll be safe with the rest," the girlfriend said.

### Strong person

The ex-classmate said the victim "never starts a conversation."

"But once she gets to know you, she'll take you as a friend and become too trusting," he said.

The girlfriend described the alleged victim as a "strong person."

"She has a big, authoritative voice. Once she speaks, everyone listens," she said.

She said her friend was not "fast," and never wore revealing getups.

"She's the typical shirt-and-jeans person," the friend said.

*With a report from Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# *Gonzalez: Review of VFA premature*

By Jerome Aning, TJ Burgonio and Cynthia D. Balana

MOUNTING CALLS FOR A REview of the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement in the wake of the rape case involving six US Marines were premature, Department of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday.

"If you do that, it's as if you are telling the senators who ratified it that they did not do their homework carefully," Gonzalez said.

He said Manila and Washington, the two signatories to the VFA, should sit down together if there was a need for a review.

"You cannot review this [treaty] unilaterally; you have to notify the other side," Gonzalez said.

Some lawmakers and lawyers pointed out that the VFA's provisions on custody and jurisdiction of US military personnel accused of crimes punishable by Philippine laws had not been thoroughly threshed out.

The pertinent articles of the treaty merely state that the US would have custody of its military personnel accused of a crime from its commission to the completion of the judicial proceedings. The US, however, is required to produce the accused during hearings before the prosecutor or the courts.

These provisions are in conflict with Philippine legal procedures which prohibit a person accused of heinous crimes such as rape from posting bail.

The treaty is also vague on the issue of US custody. Thus, the US can ask the Philippines to transfer the accused soldiers abroad and just produce them for the court hearings.

But for Sen. Joker Arroyo, calls for a review of the VFA would only die down if the US government kept the accused Marines on "Philippine soil."

"The US government must keep the six US Marines on Philippine soil for two pivotal reasons," Arroyo said in a statement.

"One, to spare the Philippines from embarrassment that it is utterly helpless in protecting our own women from sexual terrorists and, two, to spare the US from mounting calls for a review or a renegotiation of the VFA." *With Nikko Dizon and Philip C. Tubeza*

# Trade, terror top GMA's agenda at Apec summit

ANTI-TERROR, TRADE AND INvestments are on top of President Macapagal-Arroyo's agenda in her scheduled attendance of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit in Busan, South Korea, next week.

In a radio interview, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President was also likely to have a meeting with US President George W. Bush, who is among the 21 Apec leaders expected to attend the conference to be held on Nov. 17-19.

Senior officials from the 21 member-countries met Saturday in Busan to prepare for the summit.

With the Philippines heading the antiterrorism task force and Bush the most ardent leader against terrorism, Bunye said there was a strong possibility Ms Arroyo and Bush would personally meet on the sidelines of the summit.

"Antiterrorism is a hot topic right now," said Bunye. He did not say if the Visiting Forces Agreement would also be taken up.

Bunye said Ms Arroyo would also discuss trade policy issues affecting the Philippines, considering that most Apec countries were interested in discussing the progress of the Doha Round Agreement of the World Trade Organization and other regional trade pacts.

The President would also promote the Philippines as an investment destination during the conference, Bunye said, adding that special emphasis would be placed on "knowledge-based industries," specifically call centers and business process outsourcing.

Malacañang has yet to reveal the size of the President's delegation to Apec although Bunye said Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo and Trade Secretary Peter Favila would be in it.

Officials who attended the preparatory talks in Busan yesterday said the discussions focused on the troubled state of global trade talks, attempts to prevent a bird flu pandemic and efforts to combat terrorism.

They said the participants were working on a statement stressing the importance of progress at the Dec. 13-18 World Trade Organization talks in Hong Kong. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.; AFP*

# Defensor to 'enlighten' prelates on logging

By Norman Bordadora

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY Michael Defensor yesterday sought to explain the circumstances behind the lifting of the logging ban in Samar to the four bishops of the province who have taken a strong stand against the decision to allow a company owned by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile to cut trees in a forest reserve and nature park there.

Defensor denied being the one who ordered the lifting of the logging moratorium in Samar.

All he did was recognize that the moratorium issued in February 1989 was only temporary and lasted only until May that year, he said.

"I'm afraid people who are talking about it have not studied the issue thoroughly," Defensor said in a telephone interview.

The Samar prelates—Calbayog Bishop Jose Palma, Catarman Bishop Emmanuel Trance, Borongan Bishop Leonardo Madroso and Catarman Bishop-Emeritus Angel Hobyana—said on Friday that while the lifting of the logging moratorium may have been legal, they considered it immoral and unjust.

"I'd like to thank the bishops for saying that I did nothing illegal. But I'd like to know what immorality and what injustice I've committed," Defensor said.

He explained that the logging moratorium imposed by the environment department in 1989 was a three-month ban on logging in Samar.

"What we did was just recognize that the moratorium has lapsed. It was an issue that the previous secretaries of the DENR never faced squarely. What was immoral and unjust in that?" said Defensor.

He also said that the Enrile-owned company, the San Jose Timber Corp., only wanted its right to log in Samar recognized.

"They are not going to operate," Defensor said.

The SJTC would still have to go through the process of securing the necessary permits from the local government and from the DENR.

"It will still be subject to (studies and evaluation)," Defensor said.

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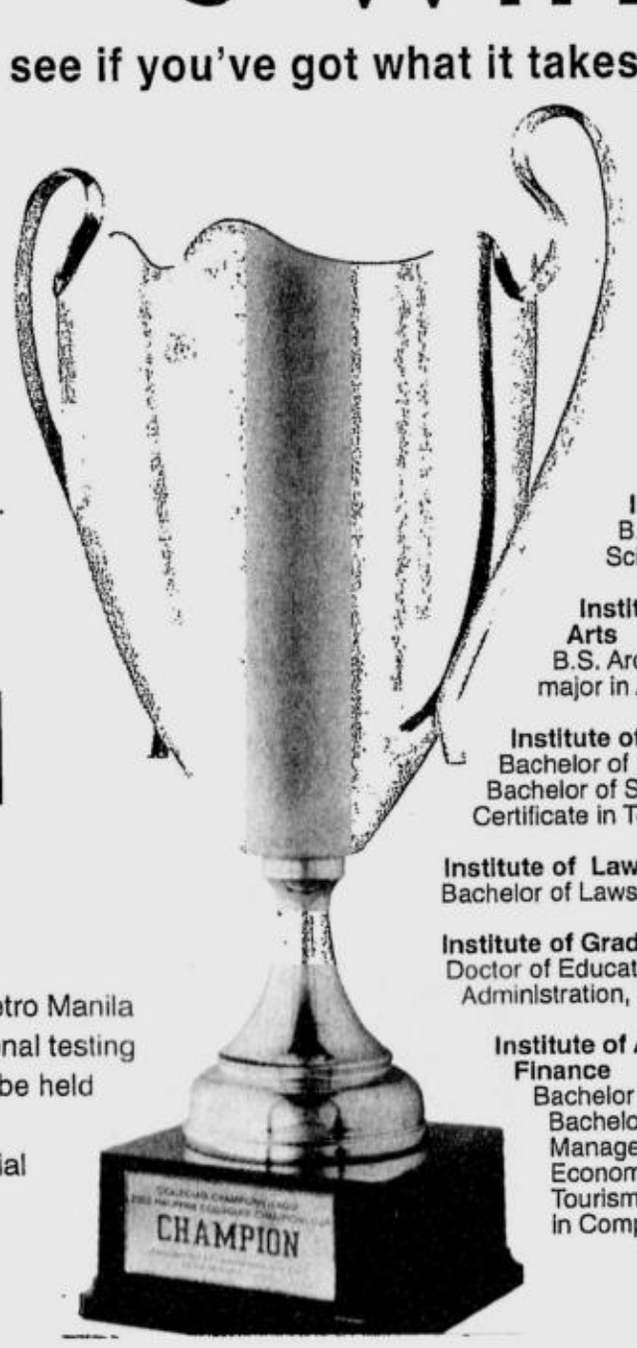


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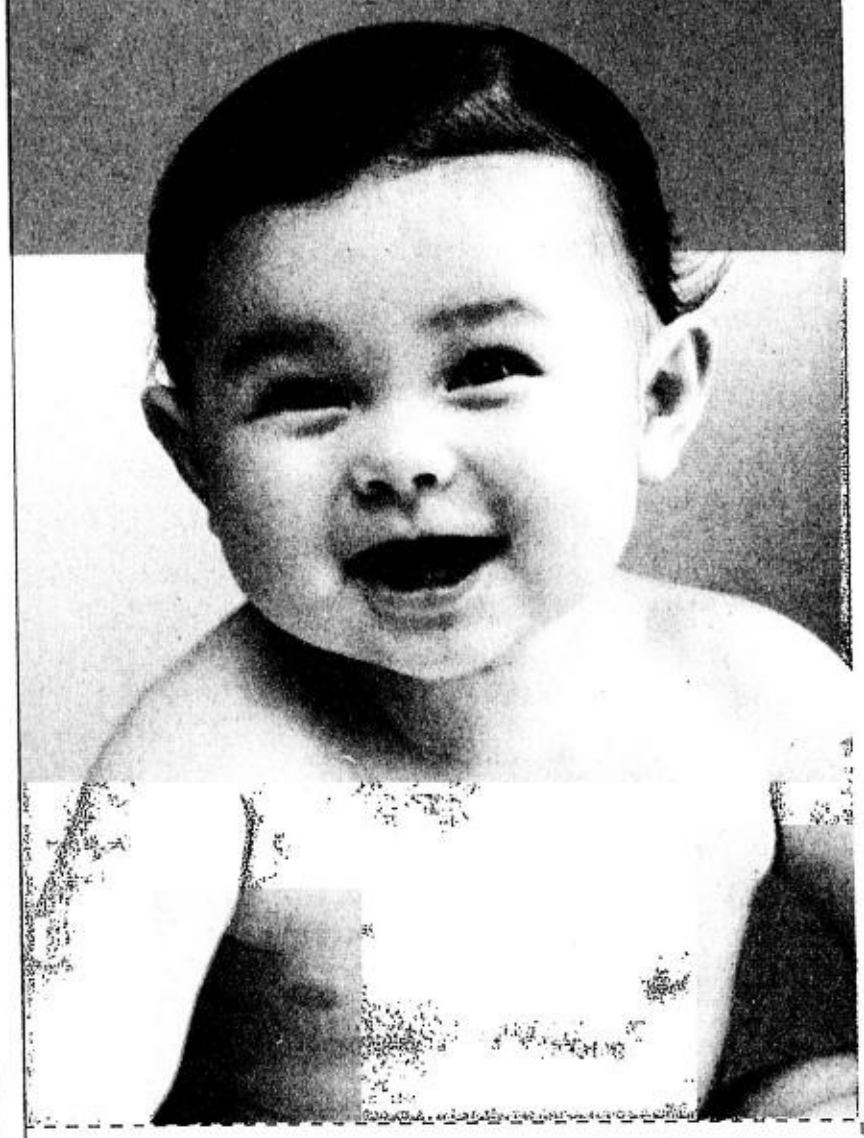

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According to a study conducted by Dr. Rose Capeding et al of the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (R.I.T.M.), 90% of IPD's occurrences were seen among children below 5 years old, 78% were less than 2 years of age. Almost all invasive pneumococcal diseases were seen in children below one year of age. 1 out of 3 of those afflicted died.

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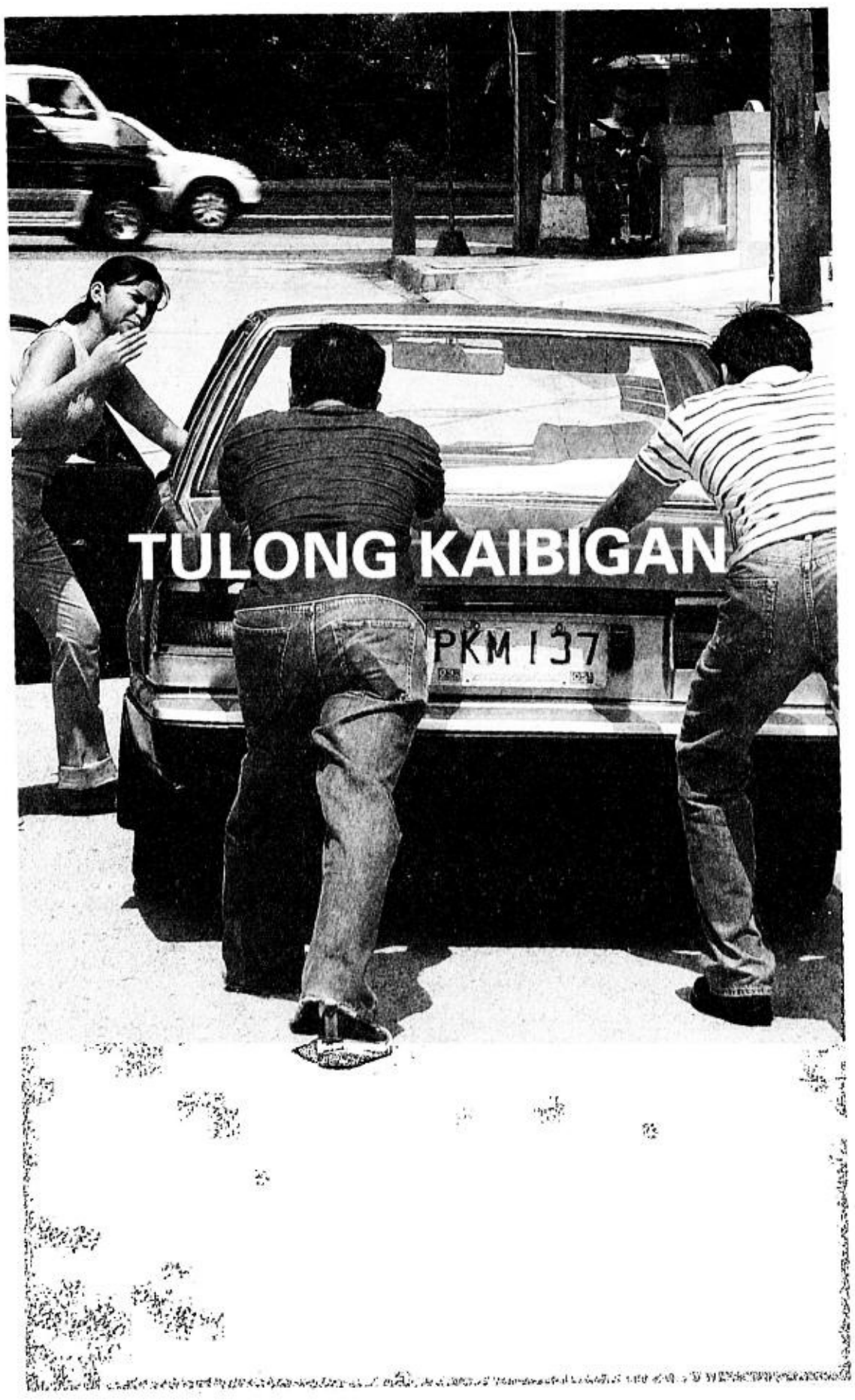


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# 4 Marines killed in battle with Abus, Misuari followers

ZAMBOANGA CITY – AT LEAST four Marines and 19 other government troops were wounded in heavy clashes with Abu Sayyaf guerrillas and gunmen loyal to jailed Moro leader Nur Misuari in Sulu that started late Friday afternoon, military officials said yesterday.

As of mid-afternoon yesterday, sporadic clashes were still being reported in areas around the municipality of Indanan, and Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan said he was sending more troops to the area.

An undetermined number of Abu Sayyaf gunmen and fighters of the so-called Misuari Breakaway Group (MBG) of the Moro National Liberation Front were believed killed or wounded in the fighting, according to Col. Juancho Sabban, commander of the 3rd Marine Brigade based in Sulu.

Brig. Gen. Alexander Aleo, chief of the antiterrorist Joint Task Force Comet, said the clashes erupted after Marines and Army troopers mounted a hunt for Abu Sayyaf leader Radulan Sahiron, who was reportedly hiding in an area protected by MBG forces.

The hunt came a few days after the military and police announced they had captured Sahiron only to apologize the following day because it was an innocent man they had bagged.

"A brigade-size operation, comprised of soldiers from the 35th Infantry Battalion and the Marine Battalion Landing Team 9 were pursuing the group of Sahiron... in the areas of Buansa and Marang in Indanan when the troops were suddenly greeted by heavy firing around 4 p.m. Friday," Aleo said.

He said the attackers, estimated to number 300, included "other armed groups" led by a Doctor Abu and an Albader Parad.

But Jolo Councilor Cocoy Tulawie said the reports he got showed that the Marines had attacked the camp of MNLF chief of staff Khaid Adjibun in Barangay Buansa.

Sabban said troops from the 35th IB under Lt. Col. Pablo Lorenzo were trying to crawl their way up to a rebel camp on a plateau when they were met with heavy mortar fire. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Reuters*

## Soldiers relieved

THE PHILIPPINE Army yesterday said it had sacked the Army captain who led a team of elite troops in a raid of the Lipa City police station early last Friday.

The Army also announced it would conduct a joint investigation of the incident with the Philippine National Police.

About 30 members of the 1st Special Forces Battalion led by Capt. Rommil Abayon stormed the Lipa City police station at 6 a.m. on Friday and disarmed 10 of the 15 police officers on duty. Some of the soldiers also beat up the desk officer.

In a statement, the Army cited initial reports that said Abayon led the attack to get back at the Lipa City police for confiscating his firearms while he was at a local pub the night before. *Dona Pazzibugan*


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# Hungary offers bird flu vaccine project

By Nikko Dizon

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said yesterday that Hungary was exploring the possibility of jointly producing with the Philippines a vaccine it claims to have developed against the dreaded bird flu.

In a statement, the DFA said that in a recent meeting with Philippine Ambassador to Budapest Alejandro del Rosario, Hungarian health authorities proposed to build a plant in the Philippines for the production of the bird flu vaccine.

The proposed partnership could bolster the Philippines' defenses in the event of a bird flu pandemic, the DFA said. The Philippines remains free of the avian flu virus that has ravaged poultry industries and killed at least 60 people in some Asian countries, including China and Vietnam.

"While the H5N1 strain is not transferable from human to human, the World Health Organization fears the virus could mutate and trigger a deadly pandemic among humans.

Del Rosario has arranged a meeting with the Hungarian Health Ministry's chief medical officer, Dr. Lazlo Bujdoso, and virologist Dr. Istvan Jankovics in line with the DFA's objective of strengthening Philippine preparedness against pandemics through bilateral cooperation, the statement said.

It reported Del Rosario as saying that Hungarian authorities were willing to travel to the Philippines "to share their expertise in bird flu vaccine development and products, as well as to oversee the construction of a production facility."

The envoy added that the Hungarian health experts would also welcome a visit by Filipino scientists to observe current Hungarian efforts in producing the bird flu vaccine.

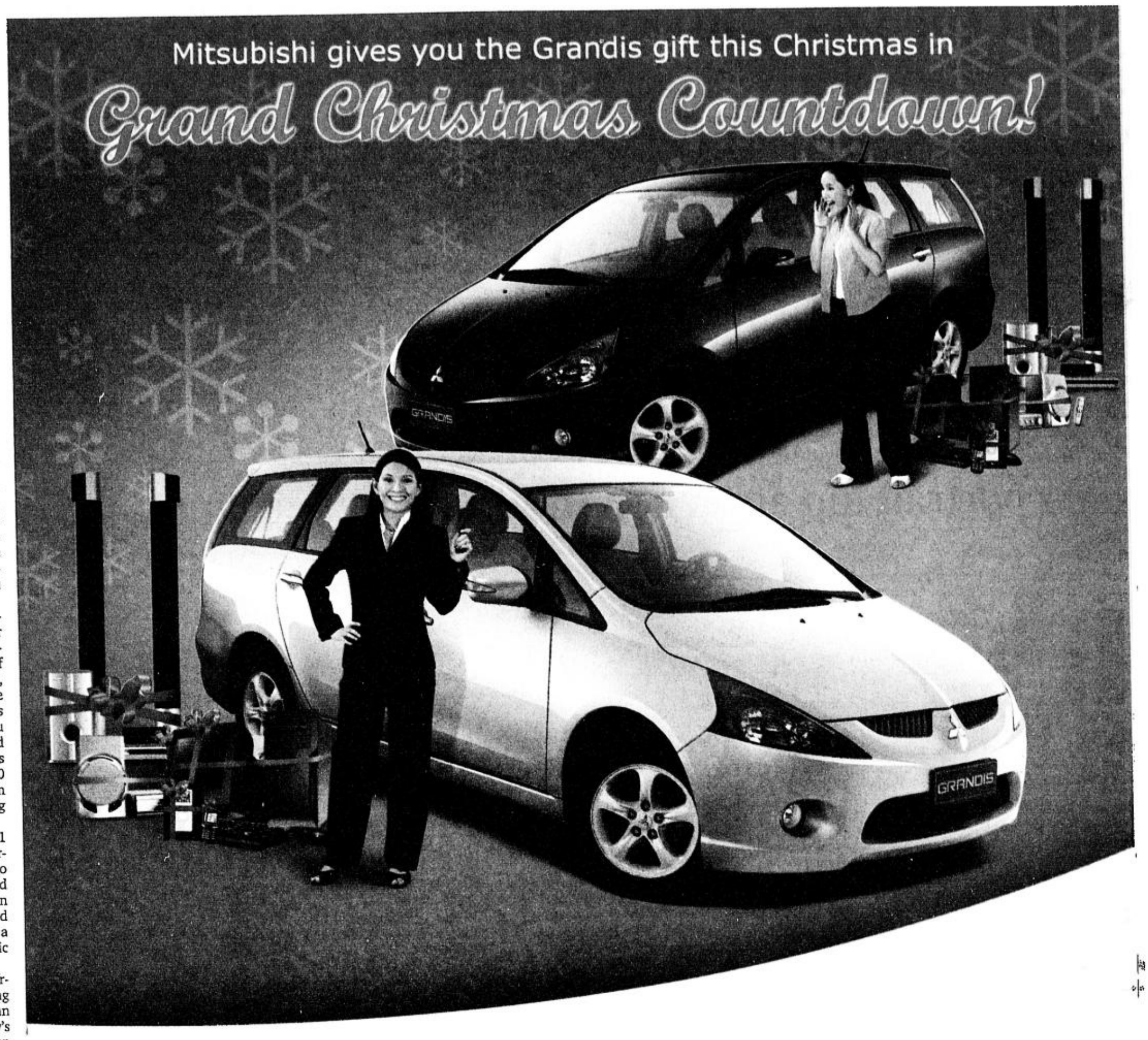
# Herr(b) doc is in

A FRONT PAGE STORY last Sunday about the Herr(b) doctor who prescribes medicinal plants elicited queries from readers who wanted to know if Dietmar Rummel N.D. was for real.

The N.D. affixed to his name stands for doctor of natural medicine or naturopathy doctor.

Classified as alternative in the United States, natural medicine is mainstream in Germany.

Those who want to find out more about botanicals can e-mail Dr. Rummel at drrummel@hotmail.com. His mailing address is Phythothera Inc., 57 11th St., New Manila, Quezon City. For inquiries on his herbal formulations, call GreenLeaf Herbals at tel. 413-1933 and 413-5252.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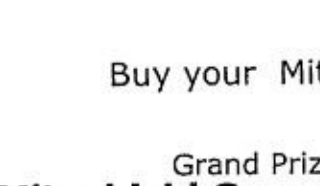
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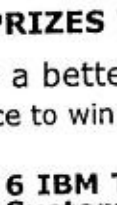

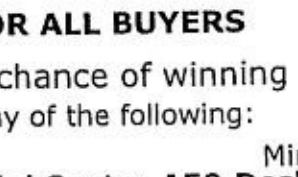
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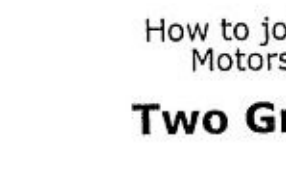
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# GMA on VAT: I told you so

From page A1

54— since the VAT implementation on Nov. 1 largely due to a boost in investor confidence.

"I hope that the public will now understand that confidence is lowering the value of the dollar which we need to buy our oil," she said. "If we did not pass VAT, the peso would have weakened and prices would have increased further than oil."

Ms Arroyo also noted that gasoline and diesel prices had retreated rather than surged, as her critics had warned, with the imposition of a 10-percent VAT on fuel products.

### Too early to brag?

"Since Nov. 1, P1.35 per liter has been cut from the price of gasoline and P1.10 per liter for diesel. Diesel is now much cheaper than when there was no EVAT," she said.

"I hope the doomsayers will now be enlightened and start cooperating with me so economic growth will be sustained."

But some economists and businessmen say it is still too early to assess the full impact of the VAT considering that the government has yet to prove that revenue collection would be boosted by the VAT expansion.

### Merely lucky

Some also claim the government is merely lucky in having launched the expanded VAT at a time when global oil prices were weakening and remittances from overseas Filipino workers surging.

A guest at the President's TV forum, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board chair Maria Elena Bautista, said that with the continued rollback in the prices of oil, there was no need for a new adjustment in minimum transport fares.

It was also the sentiment of Zeny Maranan, president of the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines, who was also a guest at the forum.

### A Christmas gift

"We thought it would go to P40 per liter by Christmas. But since we felt this price drop, we believe this will go down further and make a good gift for Christmas," Maranan said.

With the peso rising and oil prices falling, Ms Arroyo declared there was absolutely no reason for prices of basic food items, like rice, vegetables, fish and other agriculture products, to increase.

Demands for a wage increase should also taper off as she noted that wages had been adjusted annually during her administration.

Ms Arroyo profusely thanked the small independent oil producers—represented on her show by Eastern Petroleum Corp.'s president and chair Ferdinand L. Martinez—for their "aggressiveness in lowering prices and passing on their savings to consumers."

### Bigger picture

Martinez said the strengthening of the peso had led to savings of at least 50 centavos per liter.

Another guest, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Donald Dee, agreed with Ms Arroyo that the arguments in favor of an expanded VAT had outweighed those against it.

"From the start, the businessmen have heeded the President's call to look at the bigger picture. We need this tax to get the confidence of investors, and everyone saw immediately from the implementation that there was an immediate reaction," Dee said.

Ms Arroyo also took credit for the drop in oil prices in the world market which significantly contributed to the rollback in domestic prices.

### Even Bush listened, but ...

"The oil-rich countries listened to our request," she said, citing her appeal a few months ago for Saudi Arabia oil producers to increase their production.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, a guest on the President's panel, backed Ms Arroyo's statement and noted that oil producing countries were expecting higher production by next year.

Ms Arroyo claimed her appeal to President George W. Bush to declare Washington's readiness to use its oil reserves to blunt the oil price spike also helped pull down global oil prices.

Lotilla again confirmed Ms Arroyo's statement although he clarified that the US decision to use its reserves was triggered by the threat posed by super typhoons Katrina and Rita on America's domestic oil supply.

Ms Arroyo also said her move to push for a shift to cleaner alternative fuels, like bio-diesel and ethanol, three years ago had started paying dividends.

### Alternative fuels

She said demand for alternative fuels had become so promising that some alcohol makers had decided to convert their distilleries to produce ethanol fuel.

"They have realized that they would earn more by selling fuel than alcohol drinks," Ms Arroyo said.

# GMA portrait top attraction in Iligan City museum

From page A1

ident Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's portrait in her ancestral home here now turned into the Macaraeg-Macapagal Museum (MMM).

Commissioned in 1983 when the President was 34 years old, the portrait in oil is by artist Fred Alcantara. The ancestral home-turned-museum is open to visitors and is located in Timoga in Barangay Buruun beside Iligan Bay, about 8 kilometers from the city proper.

### Portrait lures visitors

Framed photos in the MMM such as that of the President at age 14 and of her laughing with a famous classmate at Georgetown University, former US President Bill Clinton, can hardly compete with the only painting in the museum, the President's portrait.

Gloria de la Cruz-Villaraza, director for internal house affairs at Malacañang told the INQUIRER that 90 percent of MMM visitors, including foreigners, senators, Cabinet secretaries, take snapshots of the portrait and often pose beside it for souvenir photos.

People are simply drawn to the President's portrait. All agree, Villaraza said quoting visitors, that the President looks "guapa kaayo" (very pretty) and (to the foreigners) "seductive" in the portrait.

There are some, too, who find it difficult to reconcile the girlish, carefree attitude of the woman in a green wraparound dress in the portrait to her "I-mean-business" image these days, or her projection as a strong leader in the face of a political crisis.

Villaraza said that when a religious group renting the house left, she supervised its restoration to its original 1950's vintage structure and drew up plans to fill it with memorabilia of the late President Diosdado Macapagal and now of his daughter, President Arroyo.

After the restoration in 1983, the house looked so bare, Villaraza took the effort to fill it with photos, plaques and some of the Macapagal family's furniture.

While at the La Vista home of the Arroyos about 10 years ago, Villaraza fancied the portrait of then Sen. Gloria Arroyo and took it to Iligan for the MMM.

Like the commissioned portrait by Fra Pandolf of a Ferrara Duke's Duchess in Robert Browning's dramatic monologue, "My Last Duchess," or the portrait of Egypt's Ramses II made famous in a poem, "Ozymandias" by Percy Bsysshe Shelley, portraits are interpretations by artists and are for posterity.

Lluch, who has done commissioned works herself, could not say at what age people have their portraits but she said that people have their portraits when they can afford it, when they believe they deserve it, and when they have the confidence to submit to an artist's judgment.

### Donated 2.5 hectares

The MMM sits on a 2.5-hectare lot within the Timoga Spring Pools resort. A convention center, life-size bronze figures of the President on a swing with her late father, a flagpole and a bower-covered wooden seat fill the well-maintained lawn.

The Macapagals donated the property to the Iligan City government in 1993. After the late President Diosdado Macapagal, his wife Eva, their children Gloria and Diosdado Jr. signed the deed of donation, the Macapagal patriarch handed it personally to then Iligan Mayor Alejo Yañez in the presence of Councilors Henry Dy (now Iligan vice mayor) and Voltaire Rovira in Manila.

### Historical marker

In 2002, a marker put up by the National Historical Institute declared the MMM a heritage house.

Villaraza said Ms Arroyo was happy to see that particular portrait of hers in the MMM because it was in this place where she spent happy times with her grandmother, Doña Irinea de la Cruz Macaraeg.

"President GMA is fond of this house. She was really the *pinalangga* (loved one, but in this context, a favorite) of her lola," Villaraza said.

"As a child, she played in the waters of Timoga. *Bisaya ra na siya'g batasan* ("She is just one of us")," Villaraza added.

### Forbears

The President's grandfather, Juan Macaraeg of Pangasinan, was the district engineer for the Visayas and Mindanao supervising the building of the national highway from Marawi to Zamboanga in 1949-50 when he saw the potential of the property in Timoga.

He bought the 32-hectare property in 1950, an idyllic setting for his wife Irinea and only child Eva. Eva became a medical doctor and later married a future president, Diosdado, after the couple met when he, a lawyer, was hired to settle the Macaraeg estate.

# Priests, nuns find God, work as maids, janitors

From page A1

is set for beatification today.

The third group is the Jesus Caritas Priests Fraternity, which includes Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales and Novaliches Bishop Antonio Tobias.

Like De Focauld, his followers travel far and wide to be in the company of ordinary people of different faiths, hoping that, together, they will experience the universal God.

### A Sister in the slums

It was the same inspiration that sent Vietnamese Sister Agatha, 43, to a slum in Old Balara, Quezon City, where she shares a rented shanty with two other members of her congregation, a French national and a Sri Lankan.

Little Sisters and Little Brothers use only their Christian names—their subtle way of promoting equality and intimacy in their interactions.

Sister Agatha spends eight hours daily doing the laundry and ironing for a family of five children in one of the villages on Commonwealth Avenue. The job earns around P300 a day.

Unlike her fellow Little Sisters in the country, she speaks very little Filipino, having been in the country for only one and a half years. But that has never kept her from reaching out to other maids in the neighborhood.

### Meek, little nun

Being with them, knowing their concerns and sharing their burdens are more important for the meek and diminutive nun. It helps that she's comfortable in English.

Later on, Sister Agatha will move to other jobs that require more skills other than washing and pressing clothes.

Sister Lilette, for instance, had worked as a kitchen help in a bakery before landing a job in a garment factory a year ago. She's quite happy with her present job. But that's no assurance that she'll be there for long.

Anything can happen considering the volatile economic situation, she says.

### A disadvantage

Like all other employees, she and her peers work hard to keep their jobs in the company. That means they all have to be skilled, hard-working and patient.

Being a religious, in fact, can work to their disadvantage.

**FROM STREET SWEEPERS to laundrywomen, the nuns of the Little Sisters of Jesus work and live among the faceless to follow the footsteps of Charles de Focauld who is to be beatified today.**

"It's not easy to find a job, especially [at] our age," Sister Lilette explains. "Employers often prefer contractual labor so they won't have to provide benefits for the workers."

She says some bosses are also reluctant to accept the religious, fearing that they might only embolden employees into organizing themselves into a union, as if fighting for one's labor rights is a grave sin.

### Fair share

On some occasions, she admits some nuns and brothers join or encourage labor unions. But the intention is never to provoke workers into violent action.

"Sometimes, unions are the only means to make sure that workers are given their fair share."

The Little Brothers and Sisters offer consolation but in the gentle way of a friend whose presence is calming and reassuring.

### Lament

"We just talk with them, walk with them while creating bridges for dialogues," Sister Lilette says. "We let God do the rest. We believe that He's already there way before we arrived."

Many times, Sister Lilette has found herself consoling a co-worker. A common distress call concerns a sick daughter or unpaid tuition. Salaries are just not enough to keep families afloat. And when the pay comes, it's not even enough to settle the debts incurred in the last 15 days, she laments.

Still, it's better than no work, says Bro. Manny, 50, a former factory worker and parking attendant at the Quezon Memorial Circle.

The jobless abound in Villa Beatriz, a squatter colony just across from the Little Sisters' place on Commonwealth, where Bro. Manny lives with Brothers Patricio, 47, and Bernard, a 75-year-old Frenchman.

### Negative mentality

In Villa Beatriz, men are generally divided into part-time construction workers or shopping mall attendants. He says the economic crisis has put constructions on hold and the result can be seen all over the place.

"Here, you'll know that people have lost their jobs again because there's so many [having] drinking bouts in the streets," he says. "The problem is, if they can't find a job, they don't persist. They become discouraged workers. Their mentality is already negative."

It's one attitude the Little Brothers hope to change.

"They have to realize that there is always hope," he said.

### Resilience of Filipinos

The Little Brothers know how it feels to lose a job. And they know the feeling of finding one.

In his 28 years in the country, Bro. Bernard not only has become fluent in Tagalog but learned and witnessed the Filipino resilience. He was an electrician abroad before working for many years in a local stainless steel factory.

Bro. Patricio, a farmer in Dipolog City before joining the Little Brothers, has practically done it all. He was a construction helper, a street sweeper and a flower salesman before ending up as a warehouseman.

One of their fellows, Little Bro. Francis, a Filipino, was once a grave digger.

In all their struggles, they say they have never lost their faith. It hasn't made them rich, either. But it's their daily encounters with God, inspired by the experience of Charles de Focauld, that steel them and keep them moving on.

# The Wizard's story told in comics, film

From page A1

What were his adventures before his beard turned long and white? These questions will be answered through various forms of media: Comic magazines, a live-action fantasy film, a musical play, animation and other mobile-media applications.

The comic magazine was launched yesterday at Powerbooks at Greenbelt 4 in Makati City and the movie which stars Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. will open on Christmas Day.

### Reverse engineering

"Walt Disney built Disneyland 50 years ago and created the theme park industry after Mickey Mouse, Donald, Goofy, Pluto and Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs had already successfully crossed over from animation to publishing to licensing," says Mario O. Mamon, chairman and president of Enchanted Kingdom Inc.

The strategy of Enchanted Kingdom is to do the opposite. They call this marketing plan "reverse engineering."

They set up a moderate-sized theme park 10 years ago and provided it with a signature character that's poised to enthrall people with its story.

### First, the comic book

The work started three years ago when Dennis N. Cruz, Enchanted Kingdom vice president for marketing and business development who conceptualized the project and its integrated marketing strategy, commissioned playwright, librettist and theater artist Luna Grino-Inocian to reinvent the legend behind Enchanted Kingdom.

Inocian did the musical adaptations of C.S. Lewis' "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe" and Hans Christian Andersen's "The Little Mermaid" for Trumpets, a local theater company.

Inocian was the only person Cruz had in mind because the two shared a passion for books on fantasy, science fiction, chivalry and adventure.

"Tales from the Enchanted Kingdom," the comic magazine launched yesterday, was produced and distributed by EK in cooperation with the Yonzon Entertainment Syndicate (YES!), the group behind the National Book Award-winning "Darna" 50th anniversary graphic novels.

Boboy Yonzon, who heads YES!, did the script and additional characters based on Inocian's story while Mike Yonzon was the director and penciler.

### Then the movie

This Christmas, Inocian's story will hit the big screen through a live-action fantasy film entitled "Tales from the Enchanted Kingdom: Exodus." The film, directed by Eric Matti, stars Revilla, Aubrey Miles, Iya Villania, Jay-R, Benjie Paras and BJ "Tolits" Forbes.

The movie, a co-production of Imus Productions and Reality Entertainment, is an entry to the 2005 Metro Manila Film Festival.

This early, international representation agents have expressed interest in marketing the comic magazine to Europe both as a publication and an animation and licensing property.

"We think "Tales... " has universal appeal and will find fans all over the world," Cruz says.

Copies of the maiden and collectible issue of the comic magazine hit the stands of bookstores and outlets last Halloween weekend.

### Brainchild

Yonzon is optimistic about the market's reception to the comic magazine because of the distinct advantages that the theme park offers.

"That there's a theme park supporting the intellectual property is a huge advantage right off the bat. Readers can go to EK and meet these characters in the flesh! No publication presently in the country can boast of that," Yonzon says.

Cruz, modesty aside, admits it's his brainchild.

"I believe the key to ensuring the long term viability of EK was to make people fall in love with the park, and what it stood for, so that they would want to go back over and over again. Developing EK as an intellectual property was key to achieving that objective," he says.

"Through the 'Tales from the Enchanted Kingdom,' our visitors can, hopefully, make an emotional connection with our characters," he adds.

### Behind the scenes

How Inocian's story was made into a movie is another story.

Two years ago, Cruz met with Imus Films executive producer Marlon Bautista to discuss the possibility of developing "Tales..." into a true multimedia intellectual property.

Bautista recognized the project's potential and presented it to his brother Bong Revilla who agreed to do the movie.

However, the Revilla team decided to do a story of their own, but with EK's approval.

Cruz and Inocian read through the drafts and recommended changes to ensure that the quality of the story and final plot adhered to the Enchanted Kingdom ethos.

Thus, the "Tales From the Enchanted Kingdom: Exodus," the live action movie was born.

### Monteverde magic

Dondon Monteverde, one of the heirs to the Regal Entertainment empire, who heads Reality Entertainment Inc., also saw the "magic" in the project and soon joined the triumvirate.

The film, which wrapped up last week, is the most ambitious so far for both Imus Films and Reality Entertainment. It has grand musical scores, state-of-the-art computer generated special effects and heart-pounding action sequences.

"At present, the number of CGI effects equals that of Peter Jackson's "Lord of the Rings Trilogy" Bautista says.

"Tales..." hopes to set the standard, not only in the local film industry, but also in the Asian region.

*Ruby Paurom*

# Father Reuter: Ateneo heroism tradition ...

From page A1

this country is worth dying for," said Ateneo president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres.

Reuter, who was in a wheelchair but rose to deliver his remarks, said Ateneo's tradition of heroism dated back to national hero Jose Rizal, who studied there before pursuing higher education in Spain.

On a humorous note, he quipped that he was reminded of a comment made years ago about the quality of Ateneo graduates.

"We are training leaders here, but when they graduate, they sell soap," he said, drawing laughter from the audience.

Reuter was referring to Ateneo graduates who ended up presidents of multinational firms that produce and market detergents.

But the graduate who became president of a multinational argued that he was actually selling "cleanliness, not soap," he continued, eliciting more laughter.

For the first time in the history of the memorial, four Ateneo student activists—who all died under the age of 30—were enshrined as heroes.

Ferdinand Arceo, William Begg and Artemio Celestial Jr. joined the movement against the dictator Ferdinand Marcos and died at the hands of state forces.

The fourth, Abraham Sarmiento Jr., died three months after being released from solitary confinement in Camp Crame, where he was deprived of medical attention.

Arceo, then 21, was shot by the military in Iloilo, where he was working with anti-Marcos groups.

A son of a prosperous American-Filipino couple, Begg joined the New People's Army in Isabela, where he was shot in the leg during an encounter with government troops.

But his body bore stab wounds, a broken rib cage and black marks on his thighs, possibly inflicted by rifle butts.

A radical activist, Celestial was expelled from the Ateneo two weeks after the declaration of martial law on Sept. 21, 1972.

His body was found floating in the Montalban River days after he was seen being held by an Army unit in the area.

### Shower of petals

This year's heroes join the 112 who have been honored since 1969, when then Ateneo president Fr. Pacifico Ortiz had the modest Heroes Memorial built for Ateneans who died in the Revolution of 1898 and World War II.

The three priests—Reuter, Intengan and Perez—lawyer Antonio Malvar Meer, Dr. Alejandro Roces and representatives of those who had passed on posed for posterity under a shower of petals.

World War II freedom fighters Felipe Buencamino III, Oscar Coscolluela, Antonio Nieva, Antonio Vinluan and Ramon Diaz were represented by their widows, Zeneida "Nini" Quezon Avanceña, Margarita Coscolluela, Teresa Feria-Nieva, Veronica Vinluan and Mercedes Imperial Diaz, and Ramon Pamintuan by his son, Jose Luis Pamintuan.

**A RACE OF HEROES. Ateneo awardees include five living and 10 representatives of the deceased honorees with Ateneo Loyola Schools president, Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, S.J.: Ferdinand Arceo, William Vincent A. Begg, Felipe Buencamino II, Artemio S. Celestial Jr., Oscar C. Coscuella, Ramon A. Diaz, Romeo J. Intengan, S.J., Antonio M. Meer, Antonio A. Nieva, Ramon C. Pamintuan, Franciso M. Perez, James B. Reuter, S.J., Alejandro Roces, Abraham P. Sarmiento Jr. and Antonio Vinluan**

# Cockfighters ...

From page A1

ward off the bird flu virus that could wipe out the P50-billion industry.

According to Games and Amusements Board (GAB) chair Eric Buhain, cockfighters nationwide are uniting to implement the measures imposed by the National Avian Flu Task Force headed by the Department of Agriculture.

"They are more than willing to participate [in the campaign] and abide by the biosecurity measures to protect the industry," Buhain said in a press briefing Friday.

With billions of pesos in investments and revenues at risk, local breeders are strictly following restrictions in the import of fighting cocks, Buhain said.

He noted that Filipinos were well-known worldwide as skilled breeders of fighting cocks, and that at least four international cockfighting competitions were held in the Philippines every year.

### Test case

The international competition scheduled on Nov. 29 in Cavite is expected to test the Philippines' preparedness in preventing the bird flu virus from reaching the country.

An estimated 150 fighting cocks will take part in the competition.

"We have sent out travel and biosecurity advisories to [the owners]. Imports will be limited to countries not infected with the avian flu, like the United States," Buhain said.

He said the fighting cocks that would take part in the derby were banned from passing through countries with known cases of bird flu.

### 'Manok Power'

The GAB is now part of the National Avian Flu Task Force, which also includes the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Health, the National Disaster Coordinating Council and private poultry raisers.

Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban said the system and resources of the NDCC would better equip the task force to handle the situation in the event of a bird flu pandemic. *(See related story on Page A5.)*

Dr. Anthony Golez, spokesperson of the NDCC, said its participation would further harness "Manok Power."

The government campaign to keep away the bird flu virus is contained in the acronym, which, Golez said, stood for:

"Migratory birds should not be disturbed; Act on suspicious birds; No to smuggling of birds; it is OK to eat chicken; Keep RP bird flu-free; wear Protective gear upon detection; Order [people] not to get near infected fowl; Wrap infected chicken in plastic, and report to the government veterinarian."

### Additional resources

"We are willing to share our resources to disseminate information to prevent the spread of avian flu. We will even tap the Armed Forces if needed," Panganiban said.

Golez said the NDCC's participation in the campaign would also mean that its yearly allocation of P700 million to P1 billion would be made available to the task force if the need arose.

To be tapped as well is the NDCC's text messaging capability to counter misinformation regarding the bird flu virus, he said.

Dr. Eric Tayag, officer in charge of the DOH's National Epidemiology Center, said the bird flu vaccine Tamiflu was now available locally.

"We are prioritizing the distribution of Tamiflu to poultry farm workers," Tayag said. "It is now a prescription drug that can be obtained at local drugstores."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2005

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

# Al-Qaida: 4 Iraqi suicide bombers attacked hotels

AMMAN, JORDAN — AL-QAIDA claimed a squad of four Iraqi suicide bombers, including a husband and wife team, carried out the Ammam attacks with explosive belts after carefully staking out the hotels for a month. Jordan interrogated 12 suspects who may have helped them.

The terror group's Iraqi branch issued its third Internet statement since Wednesday's nearly simultaneous attacks, saying the four Iraqis had the Radisson SAS, Grand Hyatt and Days Inn hotels under surveillance "to achieve greater accuracy in hitting the target."

It was believed to be the first time a married couple has carried out a suicide attack. The couple bombed the Days Inn after the woman "chose to accompany her husband to his martyrdom," the statement said.

Jordanian officials have found the remains of three males believed to be the attackers but could not confirm a woman was involved. Police on Friday were scouring footage from hotel security cameras, and forensic experts were analyzing the severed head of a woman discovered at one hotel.

The Days Inn explosion happened outside the hotel after the bombers' car was unable to cross a protective barrier. As a result, the casualties at the Days Inn were not as extensive as at the Hyatt and Radisson.

In its latest statement, al-Qaida said the bombings were carried out in response to "the conspiracy against the Sunnis," referring to the Muslim Arab group favored under Saddam Hussein's regime and now believed to form the core of the Iraqi insurgency.

Authorities have not said with certainty that Iraqis were involved, only that one of the bombers had an Iraqi accent. But there have been indications — including a letter this year from Osama bin Laden's top deputy — that al-Qaida in Iraq leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi wants to extend his group's influence beyond Iraq.

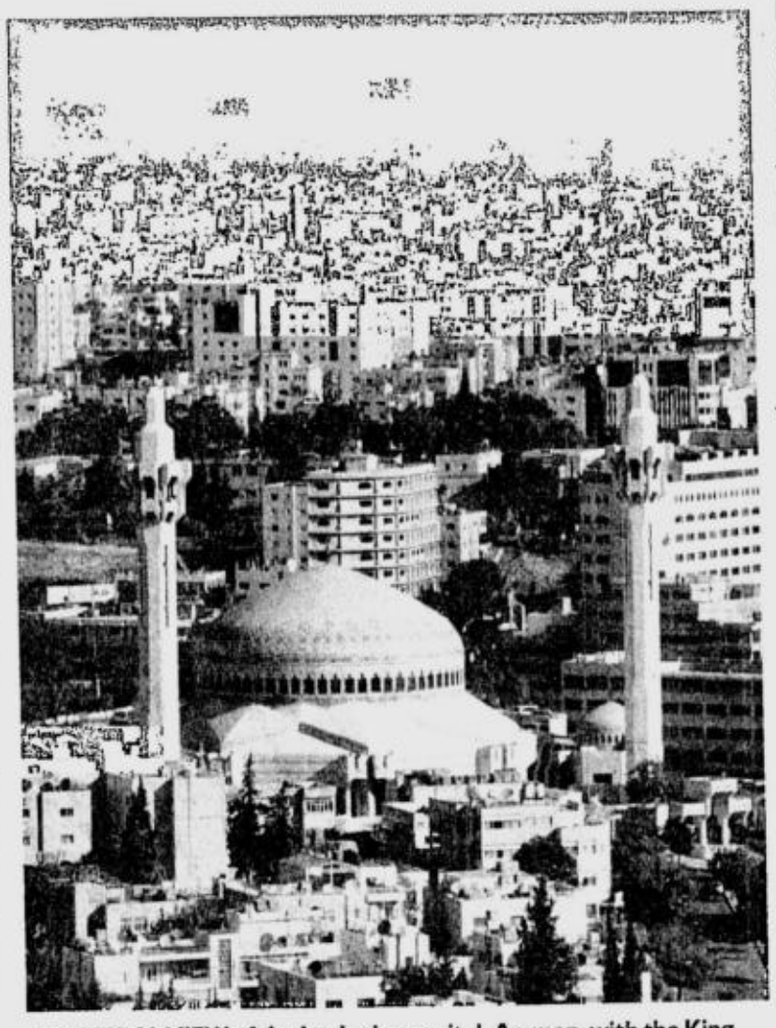
From the capital, Amman, to the northeastern industrial town of Zarqa, the birthplace of al-Zarqawi, thousands of Jordanians vented their fury for the second straight day and called for the terror group leader's death.

"Al-Zarqawi is rejected by everybody in Zarqa, even by his family members," said Mohammed al-Sharaa, a neighbor of the al-Qaida in Iraq leader's clan in Zarqa.

Many of the 400,000 Iraqis living in Jordan joined the protests and called for punishing anyone involved in the attacks.

Police have detained more than 120 people, including Iraqis and Jordanians, in the manhunt for anyone who may have helped the bombers. Among those in custody were 12 people, including Jordanians, regarded by investigators as "suspects," Deputy Prime Minister Marwan Muasher told reporters.

Police were searching for eight vehicles — including a GMV Suburban and a Mercedes Benz sedan, both with Iraqi license plates — spotted by witnesses near the hotels around the time of the attacks. The six other vehicles carry Jordanian plates. *AP*



A GENERAL VIEW of the Jordanian capital, Amman, with the King Abdullah mosque in the center, Nov. 11. AFP

## *Study: Bird flu to infect young more than the old*

**By Maggie Fox**

WASHINGTON — SCIENtists believe they may know why H5N1 bird flu kills so many young adults while Kuwait said on Friday it had found the deadly virus in a flamingo.

It is the first known case of H5N1 bird flu in the Gulf Arab region. The highly pathogenic form of the virus has killed more than 60 people in Asia and 150 million birds.

It has recently spread to eastern Europe and experts said it was only a matter of time before migratory birds carried it to the Middle East and Africa.

Kuwait said it had found H5N1 in one of two infected birds culled by authorities.

"The H5N1 (case) was highly pathogenic," Mohammad Muhanna, an official at Kuwait's agriculture authority, told Reuters.

Although the H5N1 virus cannot move easily between people, experts fear it could mutate into one which can and set off a pandemic in which millions might die. The virus in its current form has killed around half of the people it has infected.

Scientists in Hong Kong said H5N1 apparently causes a "storm" of immune system chemicals that overwhelms the patient.

The H5N1 virus caused proteins known as cytokines to rush to infected lung tissue – evidence of a so-called cytokine storm, an immune system overreaction that can be fatal.

The study, published in the online medical journal Respiratory Research, might suggest that if H5N1 does cause a pandemic, it could disproportionately affect the young and healthy as compared with seasonal flu, which kills many elderly people but few young adults.

It also raises questions about how effective drugs will be in controlling such a pandemic, experts said.

Michael Osterholm, an infectious disease expert at the University of Minnesota, said the study supports predictions that any possible H5N1 pandemic would be especially severe.

"This is looking more and more like an H1N1 1918," he said in a telephone interview.

The worst recorded influenza epidemic was in 1918, when an H1N1 strain swept the globe in a few months, killing anywhere between 20 million and 100 million people.

Experts are not surprised at the spread of the virus.

"The Middle East and Africa are on the flyways (of migratory birds), and the FAO (U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation) has said that they expected to see H5N1 in those areas," World Health Organisation spokesman Dick Thompson said in Geneva.

Dr Julie Gerberding, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director, said she expects H5N1 to spread around the globe eventually. *Reuters*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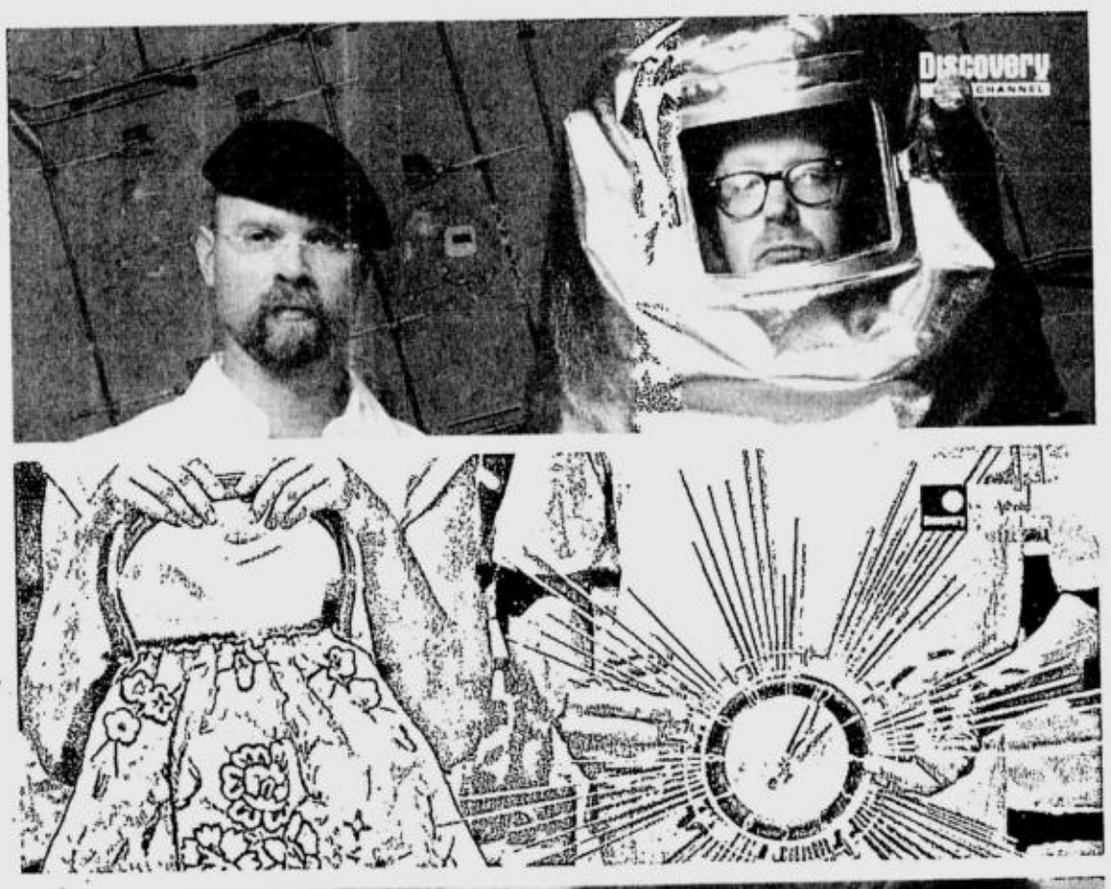


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# Poll: 6 of 10 Americans now say Bush dishonest

VIETNAM veteran Joseph Goodman rakes the sand around the Arlington West Iraq war memorial on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, in Santa Monica, Calif. Veterans for Peace Los Angeles set up more than 2,000 crosses on the beach in honor of American soldiers who have died in Iraq. Most Americans think Bush is mishandling the Iraq war. AP

**By Will Lester**

WASHINGTON — TWO CRUCIAL PILLARS of President George W. Bush's public support — perceptions of his honesty and faith in his ability to fight terrorism — have slipped to their lowest point in the AP-Ipsos poll.

Almost six out of 10 Americans now say Bush is not honest and a similar number say his administration does not have high ethical standards.

While the CIA leak investigation, the mishandling of Hurricane Katrina and high energy costs have all taken their toll, the polling found the Iraq war at the core of Americans' displeasure with the president.

All of those concerns are cutting into traditional Bush strengths.

During his re-election bid in 2004, Bush skillfully wove the public's trust of him and faith in his handling of the terror threat into a winning campaign over Democrat John Kerry.

Now, 56 percent disapprove of the way Bush is handling foreign policy and the war on terrorism, the poll found. Overall, only 37 percent approve of the job Bush is doing as president.

An AP-Ipsos poll last week asked people to state in their own words why they approve or disapprove of the way Bush was doing his job. Almost six in 10 disapproved, and they most frequently mentioned the war in Iraq – far ahead of the second issue, the economy.

"To use an unfortunate metaphor, Iraq is a roadside bomb in American politics," said Rich Bond, a former national Republican chairman.

Iraq has cast a cloud over Bush's public standing in general. The public's view of the likeability of the affable president has dropped from 63 percent in August to 52 percent now.

"The war is an overriding issue. Look at the body count on a daily basis," said Tom Rector, a Democrat from Spokane, Washington.

The president has vowed to stay the course in Iraq, bringing democracy to a country infested with terrorists and rocked by explosions almost daily.

The president gets credit from a majority of Americans for being strong and decisive, but he's also seen by an overwhelming number of people as "stubborn," a perception reinforced by his refusal to yield on issues like the Iraq war, tax cuts and support for staffers under intense pressure.

Eighty-two percent of those polled describe Bush as "stubborn," with seven of every 10 Republicans agreeing with that description.

Concern about the administration's ethics has been fueled by the controversy over flawed intelligence leading up to the Iraq war and the recent indictment of I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, top aide to Vice President Dick Cheney. Libby was charged with perjury and obstruction of justice in the outing of CIA officer Valerie Plame, a scandal that touched other top officials in the administration.

That loss of trust complicates Bush's efforts to rebuild his standing with the public.

"Honesty is a huge issue because even people who disagreed with his policies respected his integrity," said Bruce Buchanan, a political scientist from the University of Texas. AP


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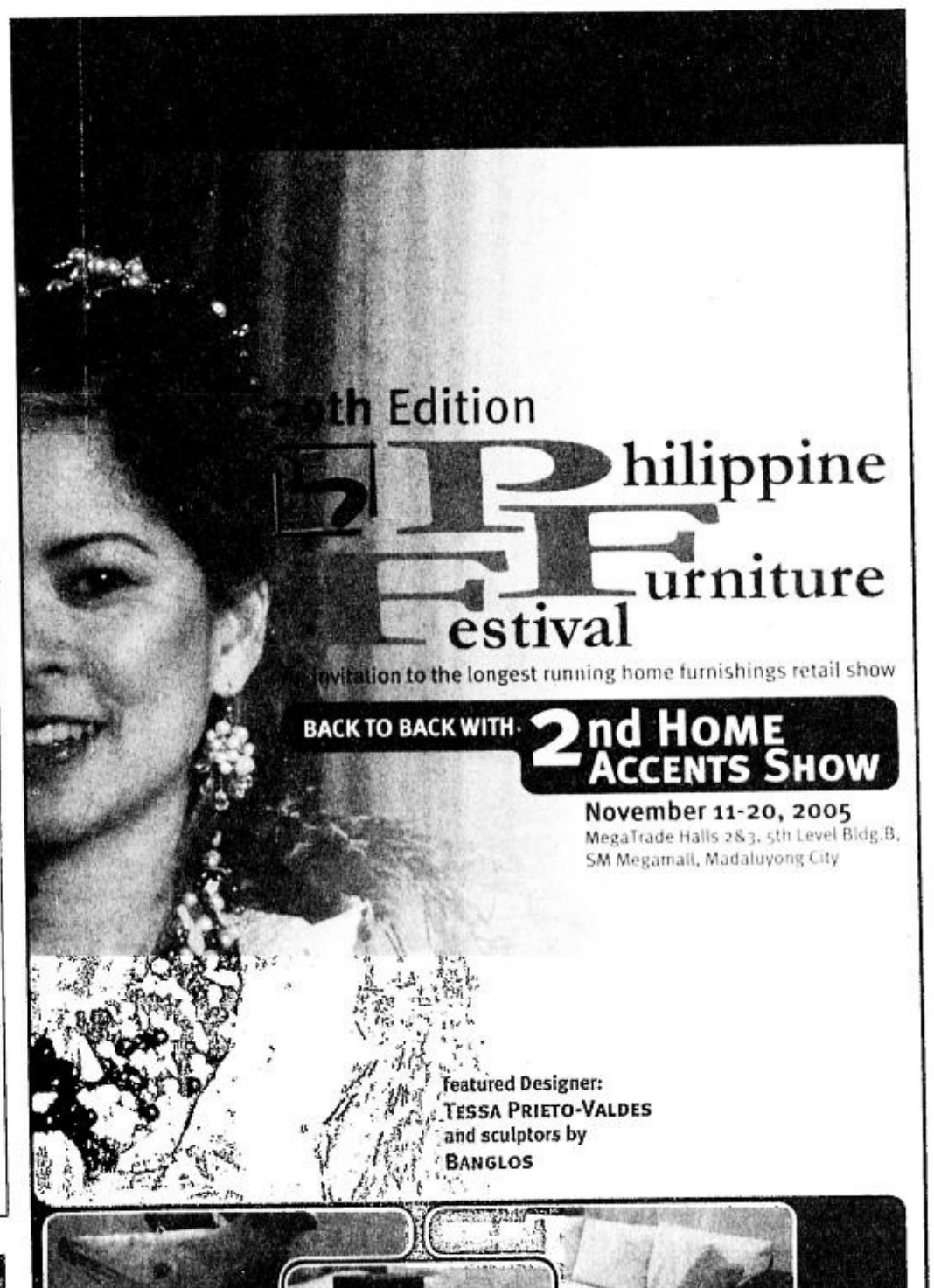

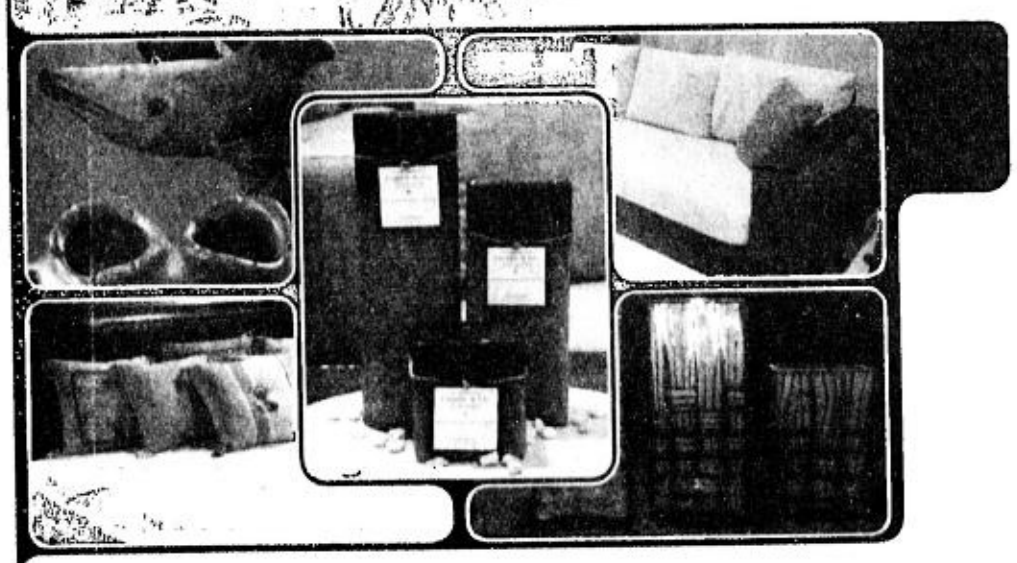
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# Ex-Saddam deputy dies

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—A WEBSITE run by former top Baath Party members reported Saturday that Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, the highest-ranking figure from Saddam Hussein's regime still at large, has died. The report followed an e-mail announcing the death, which could not be independently confirmed.

An e-mail sent Friday to a Western news agency in the name of the "Arab Socialist Baath Party-Iraq Command" said al-Douri died at 2:30 a.m. Friday but gave no indication of the cause. Al-Douri had been in poor health for years.

Al-Douri, born in 1942, was one of Saddam's longtime lieutenants and officially the No. 2 man in Iraq's ruling hierarchy when the Baath regime collapsed as US troops occupied Baghdad in April 2003. He was No. 6 on the American "deck of cards" list.

He escaped the US dragnet after the collapse of the regime and had been variously rumored to be in Syria or elsewhere. US officials believed he was a key figure in organizing resistance against the US-led coalition. *AP*


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# UN probers grill Lebanon president over Hariri murder

BEIRUT—UN INVESTIGATORS PROBING THE murder of Lebanon's former billionaire premier Rafiq Hariri have interrogated pro-Syrian President Emile Lahoud, heightening pressure on the embattled regime in Damascus.

"President Emile Lahoud met with two members of the international fact-finding panel at 5 p.m. (Friday) ... and gave them true and precise information concerning telephone calls received by the president's office before the hideous crime," a statement from Lahoud's office said.

The meeting was Lahoud's first with the team of UN investigators led by German prosecutor Detlev Mehlis.

Hariri's killing in a Beirut bomb blast on Feb. 14 sparked an international outcry and eventually led Syria to withdraw its troops from neighboring Lebanon after a 29-year military presence.

Several close Lahoud aides have been arrested on charges including premeditated murder, and were named in a report issued by the UN team in October that implicated high-level Syrian and Lebanese officials in the killing.

The interrogation of Lahoud came as US President George W. Bush called on Syria Friday to stop trying to "intimidate and destabilize" Lebanon and to cooperate fully with the UN probe.

Syria must "stop exporting violence and start importing democracy," Bush said.

On Thursday, the United States accused Syria of stonewalling the UN probe into Hariri's murder and condemned as "appalling" a speech by President Bashar al-Assad.

Assad, in a combative hourlong speech to the nation in Damascus, lashed out at the Lebanese government and accused its prime minister of kowtowing to Western countries.

The UN report triggered renewed opposition figures calls for Lahoud to step down after the report was issued, but he refused to resign.

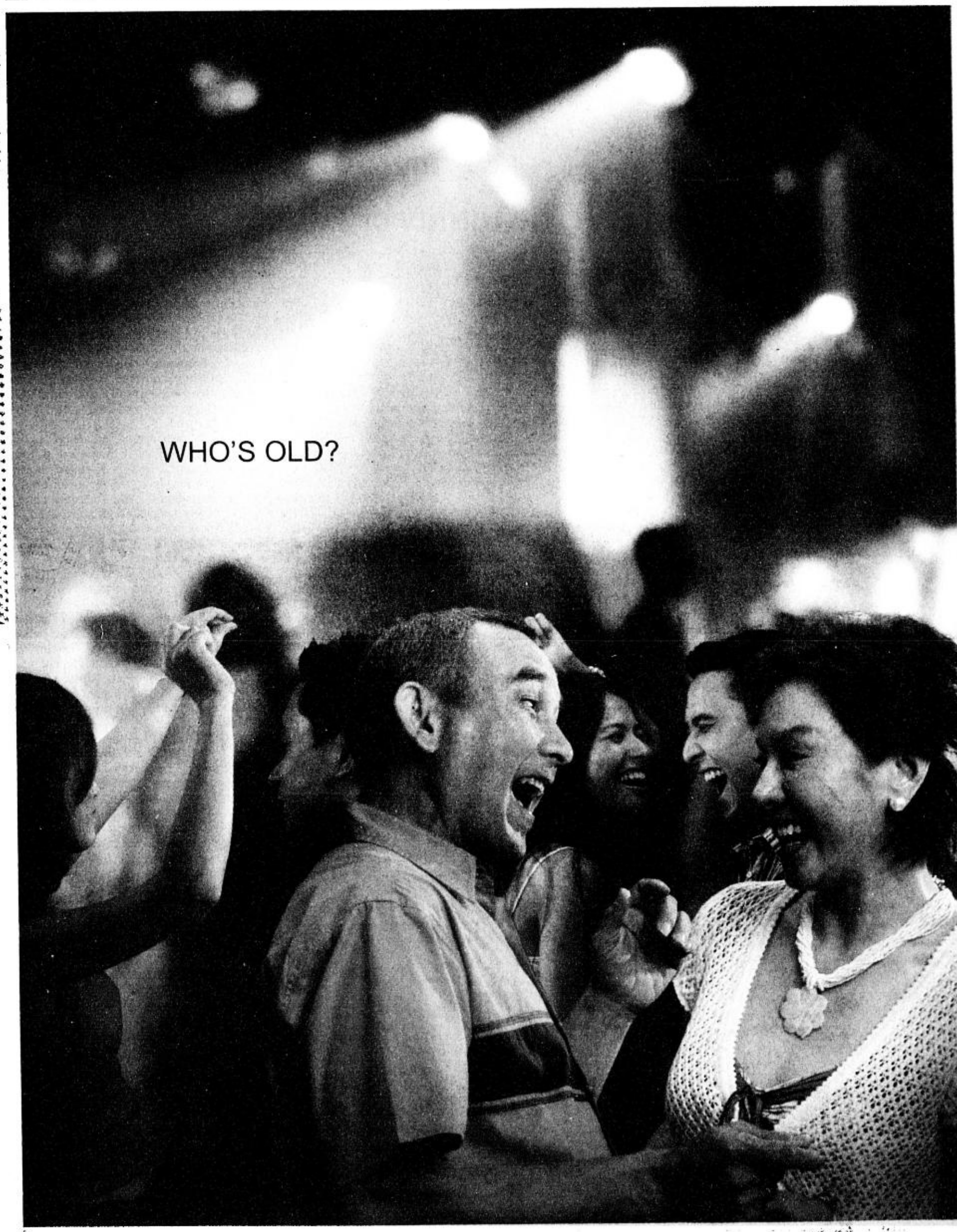
Lahoud's mandate was controversially extended by three years in September 2004 under pressure from Syria, which dominated Lebanese military and political affairs since the Lebanese civil war but pulled out its last troops in April.

Newspapers in Lebanon said Lahoud was interrogated as a witness for six hours.

His spokesperson Rafic Shalala said that the "meeting between Mr. Lahoud and the committee was held at the request of the president who wants to clarify the telephone calls."

The UN team has established that the brother of a key suspect called Lahoud's telephone number minutes before the explosion that killed Hariri.

The suspect has been identified as Ahmad Abdel-Al, a prominent member of Al-Ahbash, a Lebanese charity with strong ties with Syria and the Lebanese presidency. *AFP*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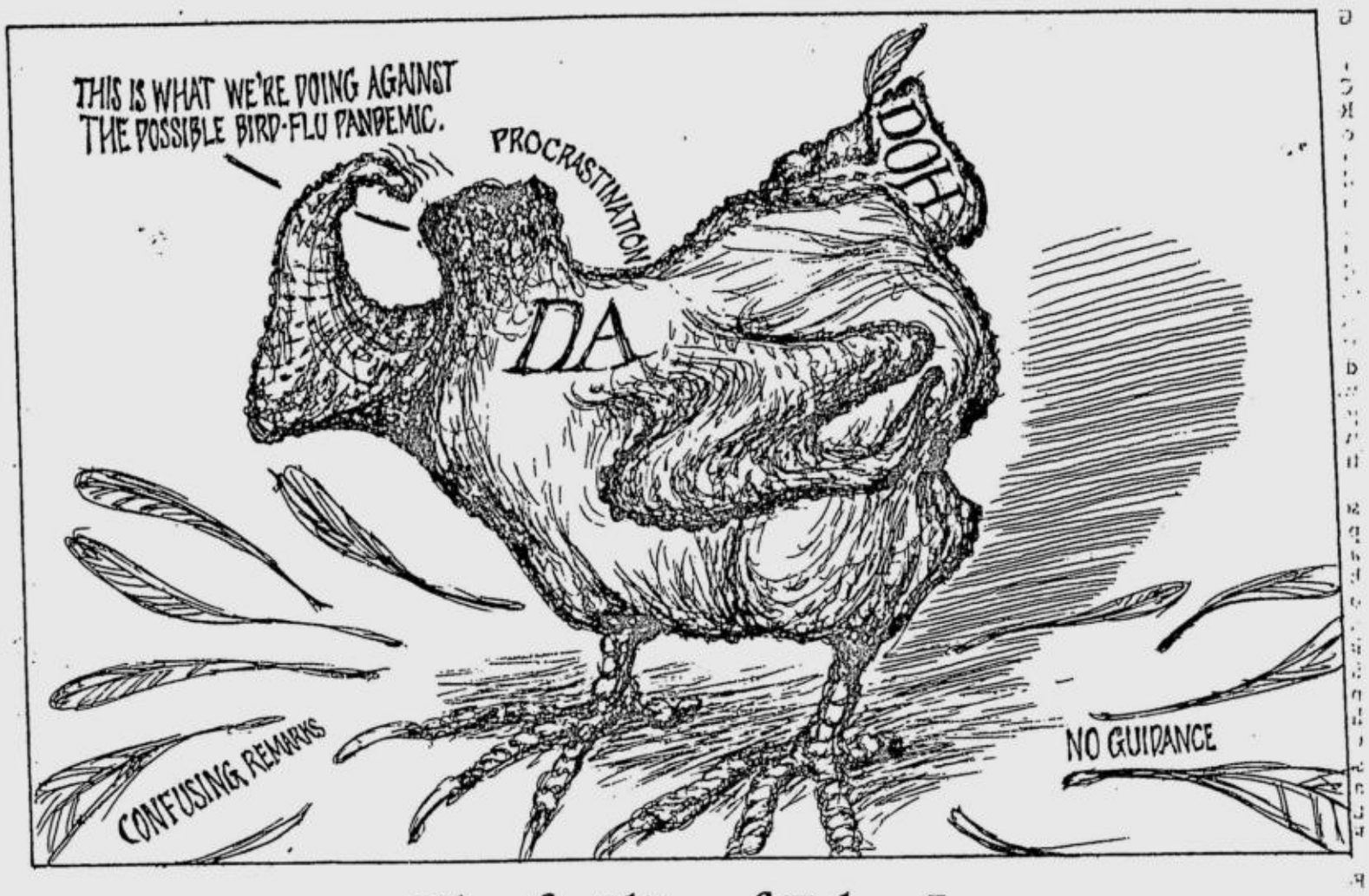


# Lies and half-truths

THE BEST DEFENSE REMAINS A GOOD OFFENSE. That is why President Macapagal-Arroyo, with her continuing crisis of legitimacy under close media attention, has stepped up her attacks on the media.

Last Thursday, she bearded the lion in its own den, lecturing top executives of the country's broadcasting industry on the shortcomings and excesses of Philippine journalism. Perhaps deliberately, she did not use the language of truth and virtue, used traditionally to separate good from bad journalism. (The political crisis that continues to surround her is defined by the terms of that language.)

**EDITORIAL**

Instead, she appealed to practicality and patriotism. In doing so, however, she (and her ever-loyal spinmeister) resorted to lies and half-truths.

Let's separate fact from fiction, beginning with Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye's after-the-fact statement: The President's remarks before the KBP, he said, were an appeal for "objectivity and fairness, not praise or plaudits." That is untrue. Bunye, who is also the presidential spokesperson, may feel the need to spin the President's comments into innocuousness, but the adage attributed to Abraham Lincoln applies to him too: You can't fool all the people all the time.

The President, in fact, wanted more "positive" news.

"As I observed in a speech made before the business community earlier this week," Ms Arroyo said in Baguio, "there has been a great deal of positive developments that have not been extensively covered by the media." (Note the rather imperious qualification: She does not only want coverage, she wants extensive coverage.) She mentioned two running stories in particular, "the backdrop of the peso and the [stock] market as the best performers in Southeast Asia," which are needed "so that we can do the patriotic task to convince the public on the need for full implementation of economic reforms next year."

Let's parse the President's words again: She wants the media to cover—extensively—those positive developments that will help her convince the public that her administration's package of economic reforms is not only necessary but—no praise or plaudits, please—even patriotic.

This is the Arroyo administration's notion of objectivity and fairness?

If the President had her way, we wouldn't be reading or viewing stories about the adverse impact of some of the necessary economic reforms at all. These would be, well, unpatriotic.

Never having learned to leave well enough alone, the President did not stop there. She called on the media to cover "winners," rather than "losers." She said: "The coverage of kangaroo courts, lynch mobs and witch hunts assails the peace of mind and the hopes of our people. The public wants winners. I know you know that, because you're always looking at ratings. The public wants winners. The economy is the only winner here today amid these losers who carry no public mandate."

Aside from inadvertently arguing for the abolition of all the government or sequestered networks (because they don't rate), the President also painted a bleak picture of the future. If she had her way, we would be reading or viewing only stories about, say, savvy businessmen or fund managers based outside the country who made a quick killing in the Philippines.

(Note to Secretary Bunye: If the President wanted objectivity and fairness, she would have appealed for coverage of winners **and** losers, yes?)

In her strongest attack on media yet, the President all but blamed the messenger for the bad news that has dominated the front pages and the air waves in the last several months. "We must take heed of the media becoming part of the national malaise and a hindrance to development rather than an important solution to our problems. A press that loses credibility as the watchdog of government and the society becomes a drag to democracy rather than a force of freedom."

More lies and half-truths. The national malaise is caused by the political crisis, which has claimed as a casualty the credibility of the entire political class itself. The "hindrance to development," if the President's benchmark is the recent gain in the peso and the Phisix, has been the legal adventures of the EVAT, not media coverage of anything in particular. And that so-called drag on democracy? It's the election fraud and government repression, not the news that uncovers them for all the world to see.

# The futility of Edsa I

**SEPARATE OPINION**

*Isagani A. Cruz*

EDSA I WAS ONE OF THE PROUDEST EVENTS in the history of our country and earned for us the admiration of the whole world. Our bloodless revolution served as an example to other oppressed peoples that also resolved, and succeeded as we did, to win their place as sovereign members of the family of nations.

In 1986, with the dictator deposed and his wicked regime dismantled, our future was bright with promise. As I envisioned it in a decision I later wrote as a member of the reorganized Supreme Court:

"That was a year ago and since then a new government has taken over in the wake of the February revolution. The despot has escaped and with him, let us pray, all the oppressions and repressions of the past have been banished forever. A new spirit is now upon our land. A new vision limns the horizon. Now we can look forward with new hope that under the Constitution of the future every Filipino shall be truly sovereign in his own country, able to express his will through the pristine ballot with only his conscience as his counsel.

"This is not an impossible dream. Indeed, it is an approachable goal. It can and will be won if we are able at last, after our long ordeal, to say never again to tyranny. If we can do this with courage and conviction, then and only then, and not until then, can we truly say that the case is finished and the book is closed." (Evelio Javier v. Commission on Elections, 144 SCRA 194)

Viewing the present scene, I find to my regret that I spoke too soon. The optimism of the millions of our people savoring the victory of Edsa, has not materialized. Our hope for a better life is now festering in the rubble of shattered dreams and deep disappointments. It appears that Edsa I was only a brief transition from the old villainy to the new one.

The Freedom Constitution of 1986 called for the eradication of "all iniquitous vestiges of the previous regime." But Marcos and his contagion are still around us. His ugly visage in the mountains of Benguet, which cost millions of pesos of public funds, continued to blight the verdant scenery before the eyesore was finally demolished only in 2002.

Many public places are still named after the despot and his wife as if they were still untouchable icons. The P23.5 billion tax deficiency of the Marcos family, as adjudged by the Supreme Court in 1999, has yet to be fully collected despite Imelda's pompous lifestyle. Many of the cases against her are still undecided since they were filed almost two decades ago. Her one conviction for graft by the Sandiganbayan was affirmed but later reversed by the Supreme Court in a dubious decision.

Even the despot's relatives and cronies remain unmolested and some in fact continue to exercise power. President Fidel V. Ramos and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile were among the principal enforcers of martial law, but at least they were instrumental in ending it. Panfilo Lacson, Eduardo Cojuangco, Jose de Venecia, and other Marcos favorites are back on the saddle. Bongbong Marcos is now the governor of Ilocos Norte and his sister Imee is in the House of Representatives. Rustan's, which prospered tremendously during martial law, is still the favorite emporium of the rich and famous.

But the most distressing sign of the failure of Edsa I is the bland disregard of the mandate to eradicate the iniquitous vestiges of the previous regime. The most vicious of such vestiges were corruption and oppression, and they are still with us today.

The purity of the ballot was cold-bloodedly ravished in the elections last year. President Macapagal-Arroyo herself has acknowledged her "lapse in judgment" in her supposed instructions in the Garci tapes. She is also charged with spending hundreds of millions of tax revenues to fund her profligate election campaign. The Commission on Elections is as notorious now, if not more so, as during the dictatorship.

Ms Gloria's husband and son are accused as the major beneficiaries of the *jueteng* payola. The Venable contract and the NorthRail Project are being investigated by the Senate for certain surmised irregularities. While venality during martial law was hogged only by Marcos and his privileged co-conspirators, now it is widespread and no less avaricious. It infects every level of society from Malacañang to the barangay.

The checkpoints are back, together with unwarranted warrantless arrests and torture of suspected criminals. Amnesty International has rated the Philippines among the countries least respectful of human rights. The old policy of maximum tolerance of peaceful assemblies has been replaced with "calibrated preemptive response," or the use of violence against peaceful legitimate grievances. We are now under a *de facto* martial law without the safeguards of the Constitution.

If Malacañang scoffs at the measly demonstrators now compared to the millions who milled at Edsa I, it is because many citizens, while also indignant as those who deposed Marcos believe that another Edsa will also accomplish nothing. The evils of his past misrule are still with us, with one more shameful but avoidable addition. It is the refusal of the people to correct and condemn such evils instead of supinely accepting and even condoning them. Such is the futility of Edsa I.

# Accountability

**MOMENTS**

*Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD*

ON MY VERY FIRST TRIP TO THE UNITED States, I remember standing at an intersection waiting for the light to turn green. I must have stood there for two minutes or so, but the light did not turn green. I even remember some motorists giving me a greeting and I gave them the thumbs up sign in response, out of courtesy, so I thought. I realized later on that they were practically telling me to press the pedestrian button of the post beside me. I found this out when a man from behind me pressed the button, and, presto, the light turned green. If that man had not shown up, I might still be there, standing and waiting up to now!

* * *

**In today's Gospel (Mt. 25, 14-30) Jesus reminds us in the parable of the talents not to spend a whole lifetime just standing and waiting out of fear. Instead, Jesus urges us to be diligent in small matters and not let opportunities pass us by. Some of us spend a whole lifetime waiting for that big break to come in some great tomorrow, or replaying the could-have-beens in some glorious past. In the meantime, we live idle, unproductive and empty lives.**

* * *

I remember our formator in high school, Fr. Mike Padua, SVD, telling us to discover and develop our talents which will be helpful later on when we become missionaries. I remember him challenging us, for example, to learn how to play the guitar. At the end of our first year, about 10 of us, out of 44, were already somehow good playing the guitar. Why? Because we picked up the guitar, found time to learn how to play it, and just simply kept on playing it. Diligence was, and still is, the name of the game called life.

* * *

**Fear can cripple us. There are so many things that could have been and we could have done had we let go of our fears. Fear of failure, fear of shame, fear of poverty, fear of loss, fear of sickness, fear of death, etc. are all valid fears. But instead of freezing us, they should move us to strive, and even excel. Perhaps, it's time to press the "go" button, and let go of our fears.**

* * *

Pride can also cripple us. A lot of our treasures are buried in this mountain called pride. A lot of goodness could have been done if only we got down from our mountain called pride. If only we were more honest, if only we were more humble, then we could have been more daring and more loving. But, pride often gets in the way. Therefore, when we cannot really see when pride says "no," perhaps, it's time to press the humility button that says "go."

* * *

**Someone once jokingly defined a good accountant as someone who knows how to count, and a very good accountant as someone who counts according to what you want. In the end, accountability is not so much a PR matter, but a personal matter. The bottom line is we are accountable first and foremost to God whom we cannot fool, to ourselves whom we sometimes foolishly fool, and to others whom we often can and do fool; whatever, diligence and negligence will have their own punishment and reward.**

* * *

We will all face our Creator someday for the final accounting, where all the books will be opened and read with honesty and finality. Truth and accountability will be the agenda of the day. If some of us get by with our dishonesty and lies now, we will not get by with them then. If some of us have the resources and the means to get by with our dishonesty and lies now, we will not have them by then. This final accounting is a source of hope for the good for it brings with it the promise that goodness, no matter how hidden and small, will be rewarded. On the other hand, it should serve as a warning to the wicked that they will have to account for their evil deeds, no matter how hidden or small.

* * *

**Autumn is a beautiful time of the year. I remember how pleasant the weather is when autumn sets in. I also remember how the fields are ripe for harvest at this time of the year. But autumn is also a sad time of the year, for it signals the coming of the long cold winter. I hope that many of us who are already in our autumn years will have that pleasant rather than that nervous autumn feeling. It all depends on how we lived our springs and summers. In the end, it all boils down to whether we were good and faithful or wicked and lazy servants of God.**

* * *

Next Sunday, Christ the King Sunday, will be the last Sunday of the liturgical year. We are reminded that we all will face our Creator and give our final accounting to Him. The goats will be separated from the sheep, and I hope to be on the side where the sheep line up. And I hope to see you there, too.

* * *

**A moment with the Lord:**

*Lord, remind me that I am accountable for everything that I have said and done, and for everything that I have not said and done, in my life. Amen.*

# POC officials should resign

**REVEILLE**

*Ramon J. Farolan*

IT'S OFFICIAL! TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE START of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games (SEAG) on Nov. 27, the SEAG Federation Council passed a motion supporting a Philippine move to exclude the men's and women's basketball events from the Games.

Last Friday, at a council meeting in Bangkok, Thailand presided over by Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) president Jose Cojuangco, Robert Aventajado, POC chair, informed the council that SEAG statutes and rules call for the national federation of the host country to provide the judges, referees and other officials for the particular discipline associated with the federation. Unfortunately, there is no basketball federation in the country today since the POC recently expelled the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP), the only organization recognized by the Federacion Internationale de Basketball (Fiba). It is almost like saying—hey, we're sorry, but we don't have the necessary organization because we threw out the old one without laying the groundwork to make sure that its replacement would be acceptable to the international authorities who oversee this particular sport.

While the council members chose to present a solid and unified stand in accepting the Philippine position, there can be no mistaking the disappointment and possibly anger that some members feel about the incompetence and ineptitude of our sports officials, which has resulted in this national disgrace and embarrassment. In particular, Thailand's representative was quoted as saying, "It's very bad for us because we have prepared our basketball team for many years. . . We have spent a lot of money, effort and time." While Cojuangco attempted to put up a brave front by saying that the council action was not brought about by the threat of sanctions from the international federation of basketball, it was actually the Fiba threat which kept everyone in line.

In a half-page newspaper advertisement last Friday, the POC high command came out with an open letter to "all our basketball-loving countrymen to swallow the bitter pill now with us for the virtue of long-term gains." Instead of us having to swallow this bitter pill, perhaps the POC officials should be men enough to swallow their own pride and reach out to all sectors, including the BAP to remedy a deplorable situation. The POC open letter also refers to a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Fiba and the POC as the "one big break we all had been waiting for." The Cojuangco mission to Geneva last September was to secure recognition for the Philippine Basketball Federation Inc. (PBFI) as a replacement for the BAP which the POC had just expelled. The mission failed. Let's not kid ourselves! We need this "big break" like we need a hole in the head.

Just for the record, I am not a basketball fanatic. My sport of choice is golf. I also enjoy watching major league baseball games, and from time to time, collegiate basketball. But whether we like it or not, basketball is the national sport. No other athletic event in this country can draw the crowds that basketball does throughout the year. Most communities around the country have a basketball court which often serves as the centerpiece for other events, including the town fiesta.

* * *

Regaining lost pride: At the last Summer Olympics which was held in 2004 in Athens, Greece, American dominance in basketball came to an end. The US men's basketball team made up of highly skilled professionals and led by coach Larry Brown, whose team had just won the NBA championship, was defeated twice; first, by little-known Lithuania, and second, by Argentina. In the playoff, the US team defeated Lithuania for the bronze medal while Argentina, led by Manu Ginobili, an Argentinian playing for the San Antonio Spurs in the NBA, won the gold.

Last month, three years before the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, the United States designated a head coach for its Olympic basketball squad. The choice was Mike Krzyzewski of Duke University, who had won three NCAA titles. He will coach the US national team for three years, preparing it for the 2006 World Championship in Saitama, Japan and for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

In a press conference, Krzyzewski said: "We will put together a team that will represent our country on and off the court, and play the way the game should be played. It's our game, and it is time to reclaim it." Krzyzewski is the first college coach to lead the team.

The United States is preparing for battle three full years before the actual event—the Beijing Olympics. In the case of the Philippines, as host of the SEA Games and the defending champion in basketball, we are unable to stage the sport because of too much pride and politics among our officials.

* * *

Warning: If you are intending to bring home golf clubs—not a full set, but individual pieces, they have to be checked in, properly marked and stored in appropriate containers in order to pass the security checks.

I thought it was possible to hand-carry a putter on boarding my flight in Los Angeles. Big mistake. Fortunately, Christopher Saavedra, a Fil-Am with the US Transportation Security Administration (TSA), went out of his way to assist me in securing the necessary box for my equipment. His act of kindness toward a complete stranger made up for all the hassle that we went through when passing security. Of course, we realized that those were necessary procedures. But every now and then, it feels good to be extended help when none is expected. Kudos go to Christopher and his immediate supervisor Luis Lorenzana, both of the Los Angeles TSA.

# Beatification of 'Brother' Charles

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

TO BE BEATIFIED TODAY AT THE VATICAN IS A most unusual and even contradictory man. In Charles de Foucauld, the Church finds a prophet of simplicity and stark spirituality; a champion and companion of the poor and oppressed; and a spiritual envoy to the world and teachings of Islam. He was a soldier and adventurer, a bon vivant who found that he was happiest living a life of deprivation as a hermit in the desert, a mystic and scholar, a social activist.

He achieved his greatest fame after death, when a biography spread word about his extraordinary life and sparked curiosity about—and inspiration—from his writings. His influence on contemporary spirituality is immeasurable, for among those who drew inspiration from him were Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton, Jacques Maritain and John Howard Griffin, author of "Black Like Me."

Today, 10 religious congregations and eight spiritual life associations draw their core principles from "Brother" Charles' ideas. Among them, the Little Sisters of Jesus, the Little Brothers of Jesus and the Jesus Caritas Fraternity of priests (which counts among its members Manila Archbishop Gaudencio B. Rosales) are in the Philippines.

Kate White, in the article "The Hidden Life of Charles de Foucauld" published in the National Catholic Reporter, states that "Foucauld's originality lay in recognizing that it is not necessary to teach others, to cure them or to improve them; it is only necessary to live among them, sharing the human condition and being present to them in love."

For some, writes White, Foucauld's appeal lies in his nonconformism. For others, it lies in the "purity and intensity of his calling and the human struggles he experienced in his life. Certainly, he was a man of paradoxes."

* * *

YESTERDAY, to mark the eve of his beatification, Foucauld's followers held a simple program dubbed "A Day with Brother Charles, Katulad ni Hesus, Kapatid ng Lahat (Like Jesus, Brother to All)," at the Bahay Pari of the San Carlos Seminary Complex. Earlier celebrations included one in Davao City on Sept. 15, the birth anniversary of Brother Charles, and on Oct. 17 in Cebu City, to commemorate his conversion in 1886.

The grand celebration of Brother Charles' beatification will be a Mass on Dec. 2 at the Baclaran Church with Archbishop Rosales as main celebrant.

For a man who espoused "solitude, simplicity, a spirit of adoration and a love of the desert, of withdrawal from time to time," Foucauld could not have had a more contradictory life before his conversion to the faith. Born in 1858 to a noble family in Strasbourg, France, he inherited a large fortune upon the death of his parents while he was still a child. As a young army officer, he was known as a gourmand, famous for his excessive consumption of foie gras and champagne. He also scandalized the top brass while on duty in Algeria by bringing his mistress to official functions. When reprimanded for these indiscretions, he chose to resign from the service and went back to France.

In 1881, hearing that his army unit had been attacked by rebels and taken serious casualties, Foucauld rejoined his comrades to fight in the Sahara. But instead of chalking up victories on the battlefield, Foucauld experienced instead an epiphany. Writes White: "In fighting the Arab tribes, he came to respect his adversaries and set out to learn Arabic. This led to studying the Quran and then the Bible. He was struck by the great sense of hospitality found in even the poorest Muslim homes. His spirit became immersed in the vast spaces of the desert. In their unlimited horizons, he saw an icon of eternity."

* * *

BUT even if, as White notes, Foucauld was "moved by the sight of a Muslim stopping in the desert to spread a rug and bow to the presence of the Almighty, he remained an agnostic."

It wasn't until he returned to France, after some more years spent exploring and mapping the Sahara desert, that Foucauld would take his own leap of faith. Much bothered by questions of "faith," he sought counsel from a priest who, upon hearing of Foucauld's concerns, simply answered: "Why don't you begin with a good confession?" His biography says Brother Charles "converted to faith in Christ at that instant," and he would later remark that "My religious vocation dates from the same hour as my faith: God is so great."

But Foucauld's restless search still had not found an end. He joined monasteries and "struggled to fulfill his own sense of religious calling," frequently clashing with his superiors. In 1901, he was ordained a priest and went to the Sahara near Morocco to live as a "hermit missionary" among non-Christians. For the next 15 years, he lived an austere, isolated existence, making a home among the Touareg, a Berber people. In the course of sharing their lives, Foucauld prepared the first dictionary and grammar of the Touareg language, translated the four Gospels into Touareg and began translating Touareg poetry. But one thing he did not do was attempt massive conversion to Christianity, for as he said: "It would make as much sense to start by preaching the news of Jesus to the Muslims here as it would for a Muslim preacher to go to a town in Brittany."

In 1916, Foucauld was shot dead by a band of robbers during an anti-French uprising. He died alone and unmourned by the world at large. But today, with his beatification, Foucauld's "little way"—the life of simplicity, service, abnegation, humility and companionship even with those who do not share the faith—that he espoused, can be held up as yet another way to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, whose "hidden life" Brother Charles had sought to share.

# The return of the repressed

**PUBLIC LIVES**

*Randy David*

WHEN THE PHILIPPINE SENATE IN 1991 VOTED against a new proposed treaty that would extend the stay of American bases in our country, we thought that, at last, we had finally slain the great American father that for generations controlled our national psyche. We knew then that we would be made to pay dearly for this decision. But we were convinced that the rejection of the treaty was a necessary step in the recovery of our integrity as a nation.

To be free suddenly was not easy. America took this rejection as an affront and showed its displeasure in countless ways. For many years after the dismantling of the bases, no regular American ambassador was assigned to the Philippines. US assistance to the country was drastically slashed. The Americans ignored us when we asked for help to clean up the toxic waste they left behind. We were taught the lesson never to stand up to America again. By all accounts, we survived the aftermath of American withdrawal, surprised by our own resilience.

But only seven years after the last American boat left Subic in 1992, the Senate turned around and ratified the Visiting Forces Agreement. This is a legal cover that permits American troops to land on our shores and use our facilities when they participate in joint military exercises with our armed forces. Thoughtful Filipinos warned that we were walking into a snare. But the desperate need to normalize relations with a traditional ally, and to tap the various forms of assistance that come with this status, stilled all apprehensions. We were assured that the presence of US troops was not a permanent arrangement, and that there was no need to fear the repetition of those abuses that in the era of the bases became major irritants in RP-US relations.

Under the VFA, American soldiers have come by waves. After 9/11, these joint military exercises acquired a new warrant as an integral element of the global war against terrorism. They are scheduled so close to one another that it is difficult to tell one from the other except by name. For example, the 4,500 troops from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit that were here recently participated in two overlapping exercises: the "Talon Vision" held from Oct. 16 to Oct. 23, and the "PHIBLEX" held from Oct. 21 to Nov. 1.

In addition, US troops have been invited to hold exercises in various parts of the country, including conflict zones in Mindanao that, in the past, were off-limits to foreign forces. Their presence in our country has become so routine and so frequent that they have virtually vanished from the radar screen of the national consciousness. The Americans are here, yet we hardly notice them.

But now, like a symptom of an almost forgotten trauma, the repressed is back. It haunts us like a specter from the past, forcing us to acknowledge in retrospect the betrayal that the VFA represents.

That, to me, is what the rape of the 22-year-old Filipina by American soldiers in Subic last Nov. 1 is about. From this perspective, how can this incident be, as Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye wishes to view it, "an isolated case that will not affect the strong ties between the Philippines and the United States"? This crime is as symptomatic of the perniciousness of American power in our country as it is everywhere else today—in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in Okinawa, in South Korea—where American troops operate. Rape has always been an integral part of conquest.

Therefore, I beg to disagree with Sen. Richard Gordon. He says: "This incident does not speak for the VFA, for the American people. It's just them (the accused rapists). Let's just prosecute them to the hilt." The senator wants us to erase the whole context in which this sordid crime is embedded. He wants us to go back to sleep, and not be bothered by this little ineradicable trace of a disturbed past.

Indeed, almost everyone in Malacañang seems to echo Gordon's line. While there is recognition that a grievous wrong has been committed, every effort is made to contain its meanings. The connection to the VFA is avoided as much as possible, and yet at almost every point, Philippine officials themselves invoke its ambiguous provisions to explain why the accused cannot be treated like ordinary suspects in a case. Thus they remain in the custody of the US Embassy. A ranking official in our own Department of Foreign Affairs has volunteered the view that nothing in the VFA prevents the US government from shipping the soldiers out of the Philippines and holding them elsewhere. These, plus the confused testimony of the Filipino driver Timoteo Soriano, all seem like a disturbing prelude to an acquittal.

There seems no way of hiding these traces of American extra-territoriality and arrogance, other than by diverting the public's attention. That is why the focus keeps shifting to the personal circumstances of the victim herself. It is a way of naturalizing her victimization. Interviewed on television, one Filipino war veteran, who fought on the side of America in the last war, articulated the thoughts of many misguided Filipinos. He bluntly called the victim a prostitute, as if this label erases the crime. "My daughter is not a loose woman," her mother protests, in clear anticipation of such unkind remarks. It is a plea for the public not to participate in a second symbolic rape of her daughter.

No—this incident begs us to wake up from our stupor. It is telling us to work through this symptom now so that we may bring ourselves to an awareness of the full meaning of what we had done by approving the Visiting Forces Agreement: we agreed to be re-colonized.

* * *

*Comments to public.lives@gmail.com*

# The boy who did good

**REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE**

*Patricia Evangelista*

TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN MOLO, ILOILO, HE IS John Edward Tajanlangit.

To many, he is Jed Madela, singer and ASAP regular.

To the rest of the planet, he is Jed Madela, Filipino, and the "Grand Champion Performer of the World."

* * *

He has always been a singer—he knew it, even if no one else did. Sometimes his father, then a choir coach, would correct his voice, but Jed never took formal training. His talent was taken for granted—it was "a normal thing."

At family parties, in the grand Filipino tradition, the young Jed would be paraded out to perform before relatives. Then he started winning competitions. His father was proud of him, and encouraged him to sing. After all, it didn't interrupt his schooling.

It was during the height of "That's Entertainment" that a talent scout found Jed and offered him a chance to break into the music scene. Jed's parents refused.

"My dad said, 'When you graduate, do whatever you want.' Well, when I graduated, I wanted to sing."

* * *

When Jed graduated with a degree in business administration, "whatever you want," meant a stable nine-to-five job.

He went to Manila and applied as a steward for Northwest Airlines. While he was waiting for processing, he found an ad for a singer/model. His aunt, whom he lived with then, gave him the green light.

So he kept postponing Northwest, let deadlines pass, and concocted a thousand and one excuses to his father. He joined Pose, then hotspot Fashion Café's resident band, whose members wore designer clothes and strutted down the ramp in between gigs. The prospect of Northwest Airlines flew off into oblivion.

The band became a hit, and Jed's father eventually found out. He wanted Jed back in Iloilo, but his aunt intervened and asked Jed's dad to fly over to Manila and see for himself. He came, he saw, and he took Jed home.

Then, Jed says with a sheepish grin, "*Ulit na naman*."

His father sent him to apply for a job as a medical representative. Jed kept postponing. A friend approached him and asked if he wanted to do sideline singing while he was looking for a job. Jed joined Dyedest.

The band became a hit, and started performing in Cebu, Bacolod, Boracay and Davao. The med rep job was forgotten, and Jed's father slowly began to give in.

Agent Ronnie Genares discovered Jed on a trip to Manila. "I want that boy," he said. That boy said yes—if his whole band was allowed to go with him. Dyedest did well in Manila, but broke up a year later to go back to families in Iloilo. Jed stuck it out in Manila as a solo artist and signed a three-year contract with Universal Records.

* * *

In August 2003, Jed joined Voice of Asia, an Asian competition with 18 contestants from 16 countries.

He went home with the silver, the People's Choice Award and Best Male Voice of Asia.

On one of his TV appearances, Jed's father was the studio's "surprise." At a dinner after, Jed's father admitted he was worried for Jed, but that he realized that after everything, Jed was born to sing.

"*Sabi niya, ayaw niya ipagkait 'yung* happiness *ko*. He was finally letting go. *Napaiyak ako*. My dad was crying, too."

* * *

Jed's ex-manager Ronnie Genares suggested he join the World Championship of the Performing Arts (WCOPA). Along with Rizza Navalez, the only other Philippine representative, he flew off to Hollywood for the eight-day competition.

"When we got there, *wala kaming alam* ." With over 3,000 different acts from 40 different countries, performers were divided into genres such as acting, modeling, dance and vocals.

When the preliminary awards were given out, Jed swept golds in every category he joined: Pop, Broadway, Gospel, Original Works, Pop Duet and Broadway Duet, along with Best Male Singer. Rissa scored the Best Female Singer, along with five other medals. Jed laughs when he tells the story. "Actually, there were thousands of awards—almost everybody had one!"

He was satisfied already—he could go home no matter what happened after.

By the finals, 200 acts were left, including Jed as a solo performer and Jed and Rissa's duet.

"The singing was scary," he says. "You line up on the stage; the pressure is intense. It was just Rissa and me supporting each other. There were talent scouts, agents—*puso mo andito na*," he says, pointing to his throat.

"Most of the time, when you perform, the nervousness goes away in the middle of the act. With a 90-second performance. *'yung nerbyos mo andyan pa rin, tapos na ang kanta mo*."

Overall awards were handed out per category. For the Best Singer, they called out Jed's name.

* * *

The WCOPA has often been called the Olympics of Performing Arts. It is a competition that overshadows all others in its size and scope, and has launched the careers of talents the world over. The winner is selected among 3,000 acts of different genres. Although hundreds of awards are given out, there is only one Grand Champion Performer of the World.

The emcee said that the 2005 winner had scored incredibly high points throughout the competition. Then he announced the year's champion: the Philippines.

"Everyone was pushing me, screaming 'You won! You won!' I didn't move, I thought I must have heard wrong. *Kung bigla akong mag wave, kakahiya*."

* * *

Going to the hotel, he sat back and stared at the trophy. And the reality of it hit him like a fist between the eyes. He jumped inside the car, punched everyone within reach and started screaming like a lunatic.

Then he called his aunt in LA, the same aunt who supported him ever since the beginning. She promptly fainted.

They had to call 911.

* * *

"I sing the feelings," he says. "I don't sing the words, or the melody. It's not blurting out the lyrics, or the *kulot-kulot*. *Kung birit lang all the way*, no one will feel you."

Jed says his win didn't hit newspaper front-pages or magazine covers—but he reminds himself that the reason behind it is probably flattering.

"*Basta Pinoy, pinasok sa* singing contest, *para sa mga tao given na ang panalo. Kaya* no big deal," he says with a twinkle in his eye.

* * *

Every Sunday, in Molo, Iloilo, a family gathers around a television and watches Jed belt out his numbers.

"To them, it's like watching me for the first time, every time. It used to be we'd go out for family lunch—now they made it family dinner. They'd text everyone to say that Jed is on TV. Then after each number, the text messages would come flooding into Manila. '*Anong ginawa nila sa buhok mo*?'"

Jed swings by Iloilo whenever he can. His kid sister drags him to the mall, his brother takes the day off, and his parents clear their day. Whatever he is now, he says, "is because of family."

* * *

*Send comments to pat.evangelista@gmail.com*

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

# To increase or not to increase wages

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EDUARDO ERMITA WAS THE FIRST TO ACKNOWLEDGE that President Macapagal-Arroyo would push for a legislated increase in the minimum wages to help workers cope with price increases due to the implementation of the expanded value-added tax.

The President confirmed her executive secretary's announcement and asked Congress to make a legislated wage adjustment a priority bill.

Workers welcomed Ms Arroyo's endorsement of a legislated wage increase, but businessmen and certain economists from the University of the Philippines did not. Business leaders claimed that a wage increase at this time would adversely affect the viability of their businesses. The economists prefer pay increases to be tied to improvements in productivity.

Days later, Ms Arroyo made a turnaround. Before a gathering of businessmen, she said she was not endorsing a legislated wage adjustment. Trade Secretary Peter Favila explained to the media that what the President really wanted was for Congress to ensure that businesses comply with the wage increases granted by the regional wage boards in July.

Favila attributed to "miscommunication" reports that the President had favored a legislated wage adjustment. Malacañang is now considering non-wage benefits like tax exemptions and transport benefits.

The wage increases granted by the regional wage boards four months ago already factored in the effects of the expanded VAT on prices, according to the labor department.

If ever workers get a wage increase next year, it may not be more than P16. The deputy governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the central bank had assumed a wage increase of P16 next year in forecasting an inflation rate of 8 to 8.5 percent.

## Substantial wage hike overdue

**By Daniel L Edralin**

WORKERS HAVE BEEN GRANTED symbolic wage increases in recent years, but a substantial adjustment is long overdue. Fact is, labor has been left behind in the current growth cycle.

Between 1999 and 2004, the economy recovered from recession.

- Per capita gross domestic product (GDP) grew 15 percent;
- Productivity per worker rose 12 percent;
- The number of companies listed in the stock exchange issuing dividends went up from 21 to 54, indicating big business has been doing well.

In the same period, labor was mired in crisis.

- Unemployment worsened from 9.8 percent to 11.8 percent;
- The index of compensation barely improved 1 percent;
- The median monthly basic pay in medium and large companies lost 4 percent of its real value;
- The average minimum wage in regions outside Metro Manila fell 2 percent; it rose 6 percent in Metro Manila in 2000 but has since stagnated.

The fall in the real value of the minimum wages especially in areas outside Metro Manila sustains a long-term decline that goes back to the establishment of the regional wage boards in the early 1990s. This shows the failure of the prevailing system of regional wage setting. It also tells us why business 'prefers' that 'adjustments be coursed through the wage boards.

### Fall guys

The implementation of the expanded value-added tax adds urgency to the need for a wage increase. But let's keep things in perspective.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's latest antics are meant to confuse and shield her administration from the wrath of the people. The aim is to make fall guys out of business and labor fighting over a wage increase, thus take the heat off the administration over the consequences of its harsh economic policies.

The current clamor for a wage hike is an inevitable consequence of the expanded VAT. Just as businesses are bound to pass on the tax to consumers, workers are left with no choice but to ask for a wage increase. A wage hike, however, cuts into profits so that, in the end, capital bears part of the burden of the new tax. On top of this, the higher tax itself depresses demand. Simply put, government's centerpiece economic initiative is antiworker and antibusiness.

*The chorus of cheers from the financial markets is jarring. Local business people are losing sleep over slowing sales*

The point is that business and labor must realize that their current difficulties stem from the flawed economic policies of the Arroyo administration. More than a wage hike, it is the rapidly deteriorating economic conditions spawned by a recessionary fiscal policy that threatens the viability of local businesses and the security of our jobs.

### Speculators

The chorus of cheers coming from the financial markets is jarring. Local business people are losing sleep over slowing sales. Workers are scrambling to cope with the rising cost of living. And the financial markets are celebrating! It comes down to this: the government is willing to see local bankruptcies and job losses so that creditors, currency traders and speculators can party.

The Alliance of Progressive Labor believes that business and labor must find common ground in the face of the current crisis. To begin with, we must denounce with one voice the government's antibusiness, antiworker solution to the fiscal crisis. Let us push for economic policies that value growth, investments and jobs in the real sector, not fleeting, illusory gains in financial markets that have no positive impact on the former.

*(Edralin is the chair of the Alliance of Progressive Labor.)*

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO/PAGE DESIGN BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

## Balance interest of employers and employees

**By Donald G. Dee**

TALK OF THE NEED TO INCREASE the minimum wage is surfacing in light of the country's economic condition. Such talk has further been magnified by the implementation of the expanded value-added tax, which is expected to increase prices of some basic goods and impact on the minimum wage earners.

While President Macapagal-Arroyo has made a series of public announcements expressing her support for a minimum wage increase, opinions on its impact on foreign investments and business development in the country still vary.

For one, contrary to media reports and earlier pronouncements, the President is not pushing for a legislated wage increase. As she clearly emphasized in her speech at a forum with business leaders in Makati on Nov. 7, she is asking both business and labor to work in determining an appropriate level for a minimum wage increase. Such level is premised on factors affecting the conditions of both business and economy.

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry welcomes the call made by the President. During these trying times, when the business and labor sectors are affected by downturns in the domestic and global economies, the best way to address the calls for an increase in the minimum wage is to arrive at a common ground that is beneficial to both business and labor.

### Consultations

The common ground must use existing mechanisms that allow consultations with stakeholders, review of existing wage policies and strengthening of the regional tripartite body, where both employer and employee groups are represented.

In doing this, it is important that the manner and trends that prompted an increase in the minimum wage in the past be reviewed. It is also important to factor in movements in the consumer price index and prices of basic commodities that minimum wage earners are consuming.

We have to consider that 99 percent of businesses in the country are micro, small and medium-based enterprises. These enterprises employ more than 70 percent of the country's total labor force.

Balancing the detrimental impact of any wage increase on businesses and eventually on their workers is important.

Determining the appropriateness of a minimum wage hike at this time and the manner by which any hike is to be determined are two critical aspects of wage administration.

### Collective bargaining

For one, among the ranks of medium to large businesses, collective bargaining agreements are constantly exercised by both management and labor unions. For another, the government also allows flexibilities in minimum wage adjustments through the provision of cost-of-living allowance.

The need to periodically review and adjust the minimum wage to meet growing workers' economic demands is inevitable. It is just a matter of balancing the interest of employers and employees, especially at a time when the economy has to adjust to the impact of certain policy conditions and trends in the external environment.

In the end, we all recognize that the more logical step is to ensure job security for our workers and attract more investments rather than jeopardize both, which are integral to economic development, for short-term benefits.

*(Dee is the president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.)*

## Raise pay by P70 a day

**By Alex Aguilar**

WE URGE CONGRESS TO PROCEED with discussions on the wage issue despite Malacañang's clarification of its position on the matter.

Congress has the prerogative to pass any law with or without the backing of Malacañang. We had hoped that the Palace endorsement of a legislated wage increase would usher in serious discussions in the House of Representatives and the Senate of the issue of providing workers and their families decent lives through decent wages.

We challenge Congress to go ahead with the deliberations on a possible wage increase, bearing in mind the need of workers to cope with increasing costs of goods and services and the capacity of the economy to absorb such increase.

### Tax exemption

Congress should also review the role and effectiveness of the regional wages and productivity boards, taking into account the constant complaint of workers that the boards grant insufficient wage adjustments.

It must immediately pass a law that will exempt minimum wage earners and other low-income workers from paying withholding taxes. Ideally, those earning P15,000 a month and below should be exempted from paying additional taxes.

Minimum wage earners are unable to afford basic nutritional requirements. The National Wages and Productivity Commission says that a family of six in Metro Manila needs at least P681 for basic needs.

The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), however, expresses doubts on the House bill seeking a P125-wage increase being pushed by Bayan Muna.

We appreciate efforts to improve working conditions, but caution should be exercised in making proposals to protect industries and preserve jobs in the country.

The P125 proposal, or an increase of more than P3,000 a month, will do more harm than good as it will cause the displacement of workers.

The TUCP will come up with its own studies that take into account the effects of the new VAT law, increases brought about by high petroleum prices, and the capacity of industries and the economy to absorb wage adjustments.

Offhand, we welcome any proposal to increase wages by not less than P70.

*(Aguilar is the spokesperson of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines.)*

**Daily minimum pay and family living wage**

| Region | Non-agriculture | Family living wage* (as of September) |
|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | P288 - P325 | 681 |
| CAR | P219 - P225 | 665 |
| I | P197 - P212 | 638 |
| II | P200 - P208 | 565 |
| III | P217 - P263.50 | 590 |
| IV - A | P207 - P265 | 602 |
| IV - B | P192 - P206 | 602 |
| V | P162 - P209 | 575 |
| VI | P180 - P205 | 518 |
| VII | P190 - P223 | 657 |
| VIII | P206 | 428 |
| IX | P196 | 596 |
| X | P211 - P218 | 570 |
| XI | P222 - P224 | 569 |
| XII | P213.50 | 556 |
| ARMM | P180 | 858 |
| Caraga | P200 | no data |

* For a family of six

SOURCE: NATIONAL WAGES AND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION

## Shelve legislated increase

**By Rene Y. Soriano**

CONGRESS SHOULD REFRAIN from legislating a pay increase following the stance taken by President Macapagal-Arroyo. At the gathering of business leaders on Nov. 7, she underscored the need to enforce recent wage orders issued by the regional wage boards rather than effect a new round of pay adjustments.

Congress should take the cue from the President and shelve plans to legislate a wage increase.

Adjusting the national minimum wage through legislation is counterproductive as it fails to take into account realities and differences in each region.

A P125-wage increase as proposed under a bill in the House of Representatives will scare off prospective investors, bloat unemployment, adversely affect the viability of enterprises, and jack up the cost of production, which will trigger inflation.

The politicization of wages has wreaked havoc on the country's competitiveness. The Philippines now enjoys the dubious distinction of having the highest (mandated) minimum wages for unskilled labor in Southeast Asia.

We should depoliticize wages and confront it in the context of its role in the market and its effectiveness as a tool of income policy in promoting social and economic development.

Wage setting is best left to the tripartite partners, who are empowered to raise wages under Republic Act No. 6727, otherwise known as the Wage Rationalization Act.

The leadership of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines rules out a pay increase at this time. It's too early to ascertain the repercussions of the Value-Added Tax Reform law, which expands the coverage of the 10-percent VAT and raises to 12 percent the tax rate by Jan. 1, 2006.

Wage increases were granted by the various wage boards where employers are represented this year. These already took into account the effects of the expanded VAT.

Both workers and employers will feel the brunt of the expanded VAT. A wage hike too soon will hurt workers more as the cost of goods go up with the ensuing inflation.

We have to balance the need to preserve jobs and to ensure the viability of businesses.

*(Soriano is the president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines.)*

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# The sun lights up a village

By Ryan D. Rosauro
*Pitogo, Zamboanga del Sur*

ALTHOUGH LOCATED BARELY six kilometers from the national highway, the poor road that leads to the coastal barangay of Balong-balong makes it isolated. Power distribution lines have not extended to the village, hence its 57 households make do with kerosene lamps to light up their homes at night.

When the solar power technology was introduced in December last year, the electricity derived from sunlight broke the village's 54-year "dark history" and brightened its prospects for development.

The use of renewable energy like solar power is pushed by the government to increase the number of communities with electricity. Over 30 years into a rural electrification program, however, the government has yet to provide electricity to some 8,000 villages throughout the country.

Except for the unused facilities of the government's Telepono sa Barangay program, the installed photovoltaic systems stand out among the mostly bamboo and wooden huts in the village.

The use of photovoltaic technology to generate electricity in Balong-balong was made possible by the Solar Power Technology Support Project (Spots) implemented by the Department of Agrarian Reform to bring energy to off-grid agrarian reform communities (ARCs).

In its first phase, the project covered 40 ARCs comprising of about 40,000 households in 16 Mindanao provinces. The second phase, now underway, targets 44 ARCs in Visayas and Mindanao, to benefit some 55,000 households.

The National Economic and Development Authority estimates that the two project phases would cost P2.28 billion, mostly financed through a loan from the Spanish government.

## Technology

The photovoltaic system consists of the solar cell, regulator and battery, all connected serially by an electric wire.

The heart of the system is a solar cell, which captures sunlight and converts it into electricity. From there, generated electricity passes through the regulator which controls its flow, into the battery for storage.

The amount of electricity generated depends on the size of the solar cell, its conversion efficiency and intensity of the sunlight.

For home lighting, which is the simplest application, only one solar cell is used. It can sustain the requirement of only four 8-watt direct current fluorescent bulbs all simultaneously running between nine to 10 hours.

Residents in project communities are made to choose which of the technology packages they want to avail, consistent with their perceived needs. Home lighting is the most popular application.

Apart from transforming the physical landscape with the new facilities, the advent of solar energy is also changing the communities in other ways. Balong-balong village Councilor Arturo Limare said the children are performing better in school as they have more study time. The school can now use film as instruction medium, thereby enhancing the learners' mode of gaining knowledge.

Increased income also beckons as lighted homes provide opportunity for extended work time. Rogelio Repolidon said he and his wife now spend the evenings binding soft tie on seaweeds to be planted the next day. So, too, are Subanen women in a hinterland village of Molave town who make ropes from forest materials.

Traditionally a task of rural women, fetching water for domestic use is no longer burdensome. In Balong-balong, a system distributes electrically-pumped water through tap stands set up near clusters of houses.

To sustain these gains, the DAR helped the communities build institutions that manage the operation of the facilities, said provincial agrarian reform officer Romeo Pepe Ladao.

Water and sanitation associations have been organized to run the water distribution system while another organization is charged for home lighting. Local technicians have also been also trained to do repair and maintenance work when necessary.

## Costs of power

Solar energy costs about three times that of retail hydro power. For home lighting, a household pays P170 per month, or around P19 per kilowatt-hour as compared to just P6 to P7 from the electric cooperative.

At this rate, however, Balong-balong residents still save 40 percent of the cost of kerosene retailed at P35 per liter in the village. A household consumes at least six liters of kerosene a month.

The parents association also pays P170 for the electricity connection of the school, divided among families who have schoolchildren. For water supply, every household is billed P60.

The connections of community facilities like health center, village hall and public-square are paid by funds from the barangay and town governments.

Beyond establishing the energy infrastructure, the project gave assistance to communities to enhance existing as well as cultivate new income-generating opportunities and hence help households pay their bills.

Seeing the potentials of solar energy, Pitogo Mayor James Yecyec said he planned to apply the technology in generating potable water for residents of 15 villages, many of whom get their water at least a kilometer from where they live. The potable water system installation that serves 57 households in Balong-balong village costs some P3.5 million.

Zamboanga del Norte Gov. Rolando Yebes, western Mindanao's regional development council chair, lauded the aggressive introduction of solar power applications as a step in promoting alternative energy sources in the country amid the current global debacle with oil.

The Department of Energy placed the direct cost of rural electrification at P1 million to P1.5 million per village. It is higher if expenditures for substation, sub-transmission lines, house wiring and other electrification accessories are factored in.

Hence, the government's rural electrification program has recognized the need "to utilize stand-alone new and renewable energy or hybrid systems" as least-cost options to bring electricity to some 4,000 unenergized villages throughout the country that are located remotely or outside existing electrical grid systems.

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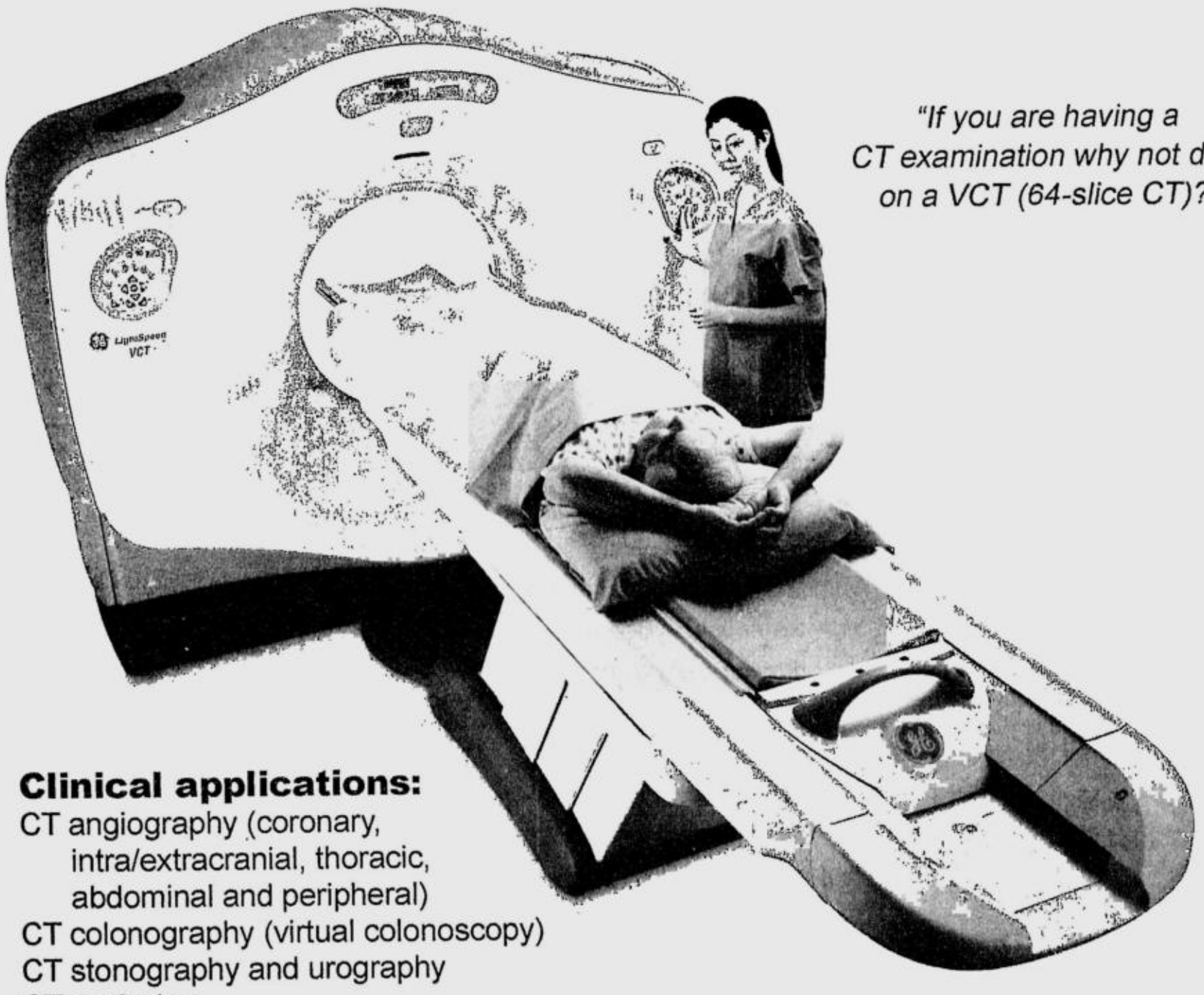
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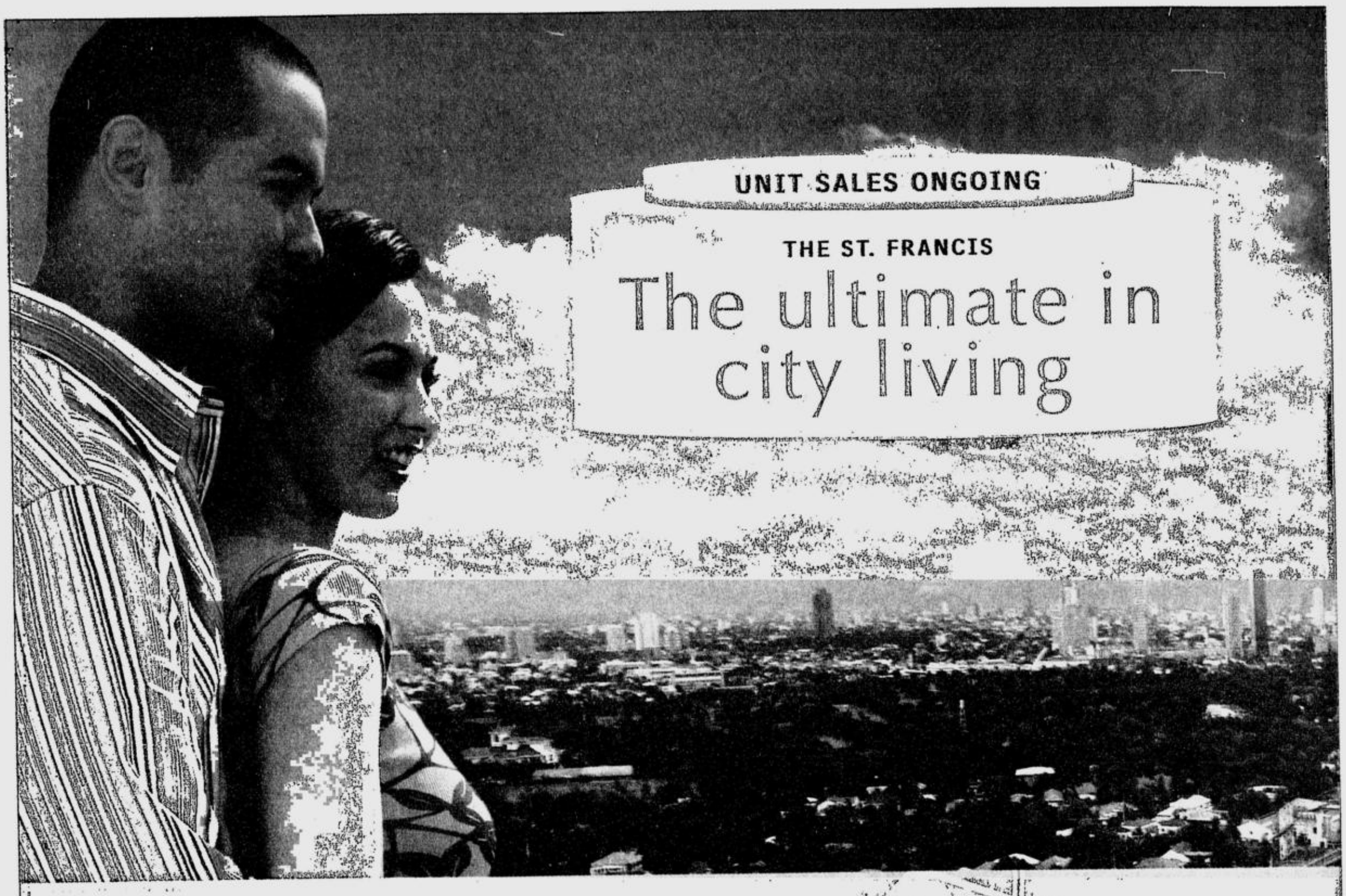

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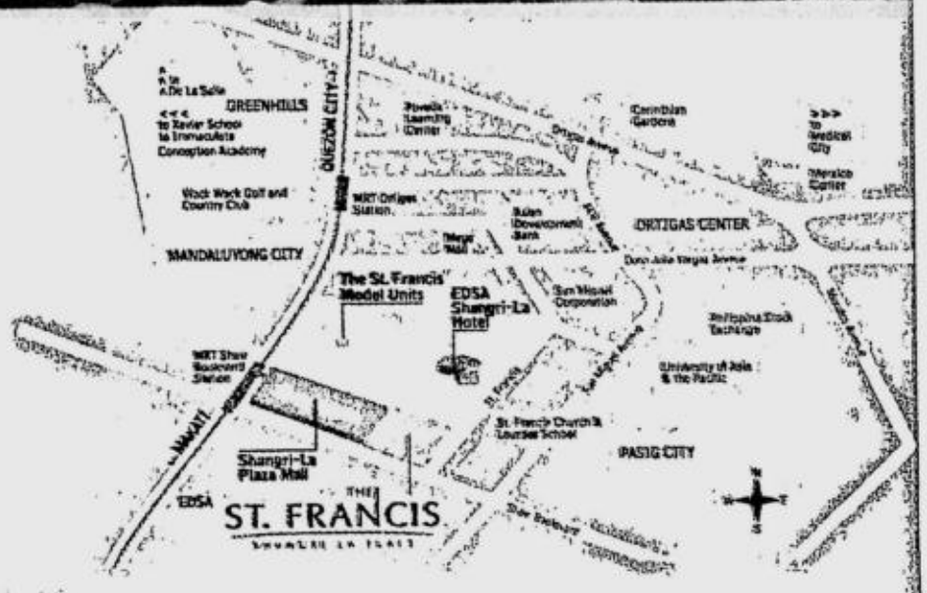


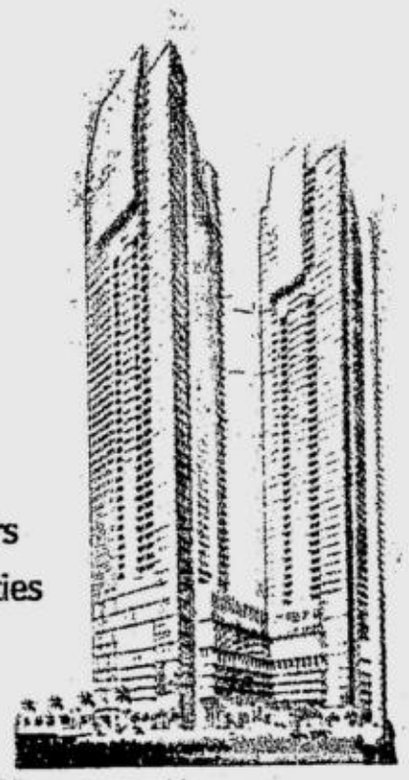

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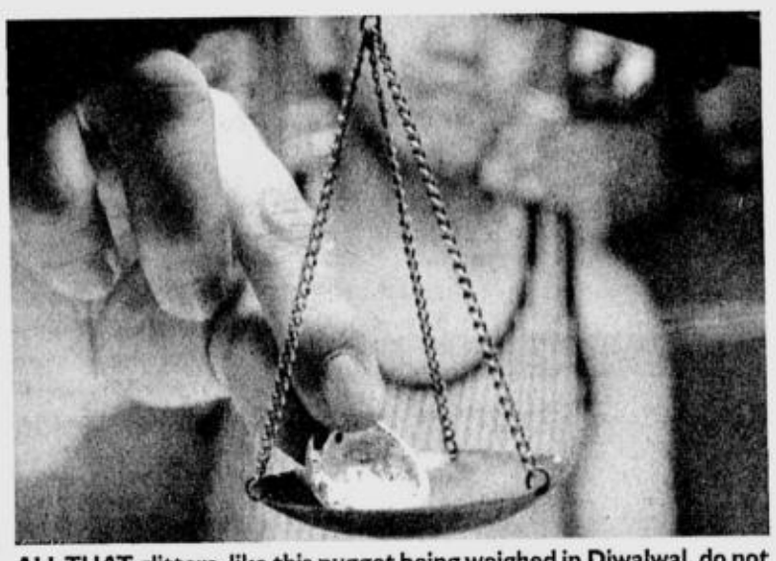
# Lafayette blamed for low fish catch

RAPU-RAPU, Albay—For more than a week now, most residents in the villages of Pagcolbon, Malobago, and Binosawan here, whose main source of livelihood is fishing, have found it hard to catch fish in their once-rich fishing area.



ALL THAT glitters, like this nugget being weighed in Diwalwal, do not bring gold, especially among residents and fishermen of Rapu-Rapu, Albay who now suffer the effects of a cyanide leak from mining operations in their town. ERIK DE CASTRO/REUTERS

They claimed that the area was still evidently contaminated by cyanide from the waste spills that overflowed from the tailings pond of Lafayette Philippines Inc. when a milling pump malfunctioned on Oct. 11 and after continuous rains on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1.

The fishermen also demanded payment from the Environmental Guarantee Fund (EGF), a special emergency fund that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources asked Lafayette to set up to compensate for any damage to the environment its operations would cause.

Ruden Caturno, a fisherman in Barangay Binosawan, said the waste spills had brought down their earnings.

Caturno said fish kills occured after the waste spill.

"Even shells, octopuses and corals were destroyed by the spill," he said.

"Right now, the only thing we know that Lafayette has done after the fish kills was to suspend its milling operation but it has not paid us fishermen here from the supposed Environmental Guarantee Fund despite our having no income for almost a week now," Caturno said.

Lafayette refused to comment on the issue.

Tanggol Kalikasan area director Jun Narvadez said the Greenpeace International was also monitoring not only the mining operation but also the mobilization of the people that call for the mine's permanent closure.

The setting up of the EGF, he said, must be a standard operating procedure on the part of Lafayette.

Narvadez said the fishermen must be paid at least P100,000 each for their loss of income for almost a week now, based on their daily income and damage to the marine life habitat.

Barangay Chair Reynaldo Asuncion said most of his constituents in Barangay Malobago were against the continuous operation of Lafayette's mining.

"Frankly speaking, we don't believe anymore in what the MGB (Mines and Geoscience Bureau) as well as other agencies like the BFAR (Bureau of Fishery and Aquatic Resources) are saying. It seems they don't see the reality that most of us here are continuously suffering for there's no fish and if you can see, the color of our sea is now chocolate brown," Asuncion said.

He added that the councils of the three affected barangays were united against the continuation of Lafayette's mining operation.

Barangay Binosawan chair Efren Ebuel claimed that of the three villages, their barangay suffered most since the tailings pond that overflowed is just 50 meters away from the Binosawan Sea.

Ebuel expressed fear that since it is already rainy season, another tailings pond could have a spill any time soon, which would eventually destroy not only the sea but also a number of rivers and creeks. *Gil Francis G. Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

# Rebs raid Bukidnon cops, take guns

MALAYBALAY CITY, Bukidnon—Communist rebels on board three vans stormed the Quezon town police station on Friday evening and ransacked its armory.

Senior Supt. Archie Gamboa, Bukidnon police chief, said about 50 New People's Army (NPA) rebels in full combat uniform entered the station, disarmed the policemen and asked one of them to open the station's locker, where other guns were being kept.

Gamboa said six policemen were at the station during the NPA raid.

He said the rebels fled five minutes later with their loot—seven M-16 rifles, three handguns, a base radio and a handheld radio and a computer.

Gamboa said two of the three vans used by the rebels were later recovered in Maramag town.

Communist guerrillas have made their attacks on government targets more frequent following a government decision to withdraw the immunity from arrest it gave guerrilla peace talks negotiators.

The talks collapsed following the listing of the Communist Party of the Philippines as a terrorist organization. *Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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**YOUNG MORO PROFESSIONALS,** from left, Rommel Romato, Anna Leah Dipatuan, Kathleen Alih, Gandhi Kinjo, Gonaranao Musor, Naheeda Dimacisil and Sherjan Kalim. JOAN BONDOC

# Muslim prayer hall, dorm, cafeteria to rise in UP

From page A1

campus in Diliman, Quezon City.

Proponents are still looking for donors to fund the construction but are already hailing the project as a major step in nurturing Filipino Muslim-Christian coexistence—and a milestone at the nearly century-old state university.

The UP administration has "agreed in principle" to lease a 3,000 sq.m. area for the complex, according to Rommel Romato, board secretary of the UP Diliman Masjid Foundation, which will operate the complex. The foundation is headed by Dr. Carmen Abubakar, who is also dean of the UP Institute of Islamic Studies.

Romato's announcement concerning the project was a highlight of last Saturday's general assembly of the Young Muslim Professionals Network Inc., whose members include UP Muslim alumni like himself.

## Looking for donors

The foundation is looking for benefactors while negotiating the finer terms of the lease with the UP administration, including the exact location for the structure, he said.

Once realized, the Mushalla complex will provide a permanent place of worship for UP's Muslim population, Romato said in an INQUIRER interview after addressing the YMPN assembly at UP's Balay Kalinao.

At present, Muslims studying or working at UP use vacant offices as prayer rooms, either at the International Center or the Institute for Islamic Studies building, he pointed out.

"We are thankful that the present UP administration is showing open-mindedness and sensitivity to our plight. We are fortunate the UP community is supportive of this project," said Romato, who was president of the UP Muslim Student Association in 2001.

Now working in a government agency, he remains a UP dweller as a student pursuing a master's degree in urban planning.

## Need to pray

"Just like the Christians on campus, we also need to pray—and we do it five times a day—and we need to do it in a fitting place," he said, adding, "(The project) will make UP a truly world-class university and a significant center of ... multicultural understanding, respect and solidarity among people."

Reached by the INQUIRER on Wednesday, UP president Emerlinda Roman confirmed the preliminary agreement with the foundation. She maintained, though, that the project still needed to obtain the necessary funds and that no specific location had yet been decided on.

Roman presented the draft terms and conditions of the lease as early as September last year, then in her capacity as university chancellor.

"We realize that they need a space for prayer," she told the INQUIRER. She made it clear though that what was being considered was not a mosque but a prayer room and dormitory.

## Halal food

Romato said the foundation will shortly present proposed ground and structural designs for the complex to Roman and UP Chancellor Sergio Cao for their approval. The designs formed part of the "feasibility study" prepared by the foundation in 2003, he said.

Aside from student housing, the proposed Mushallah complex will include a canteen serving halal food, a research and information center and an exhibit area, he added

SHARP www.sharp.ph

# Illegal vendors not welcome in Manila

By Tina G. Santos

CHRISTMAS OR NO CHRISTMAS, illegal vendors will not be allowed in Manila.

In some other localities, officials had observed a moratorium on dispersals during the holidays.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said no such moratorium would be in place in the city.

He said Manila's organized vending program would remain in effect even during the season.

"There will be no change in policy even during the critical month of December," Atienza said.

"The fact that we have been able to control the situation in our vending areas, especially during this time of the year, means that our program is effective," Atienza said.

Organized vending regulates the selling on sidewalks and side streets by requiring vendors to get permits.

### Off limits

The mayor said Juan Luna and Ilaya streets in Divisoria, as well as the stretch of Taft Avenue, would remain off limits to vendors to keep these open to traffic during the holidays.

In Quiapo, however, vendors will be allowed to do business along Carriedo, Carlos Palanca (formerly Echague) and Villalobos streets, Atienza said.

"Many of the vendors in the city are now organized and more disciplined," the mayor said. They are also protected because their operation has been legitimized.

"We were also able to keep the major thoroughfares open for use of pedestrians and motorists. Our program was able to address the desire of vendors to earn a decent living without sacrificing public interest," Atienza said.

Atienza added that the police would be held responsible for any violation of the organized vending system.

"They (police) should keep vendors away from prohibited areas, otherwise, or face sanctions," he said.

# Have sticker, will travel in Navotas

By Nancy C. Carvajal

TO PROTECT LEGITIMATE JEEPNEY drivers and operators, Navotas officials are intensifying a drive against colorum vehicles.

Mayor Toby Tiangco said the key to this drive would be the sticker system being implemented in the town.

An ordinance requires legitimate jeepney operators to secure a P100 municipal sticker that will distinguish their vehicles from illegally operating units.

"The legitimate owners and drivers right to earn a just income must be protected at all times," Tiangco said, adding that "colorum" vehicles drastically reduce their income.

Tiangco noted a rise in the number of colorum jeepneys in Navotas.

First time offenders face a reprimand and a penalty.

Higher fees are imposed on repeat offenders.

"It's works like the organized bus route scheme of the MMDA," Tiangco said.

# Fight for Sta. Lucia not over, says Cainta exec

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE LEGAL TUG-OF-WAR FOR P40 million in taxes from Sta. Lucia mall is not over—at least for the Cainta government.

Despite a "final" decision by the Third Division of the Supreme Court that hands jurisdiction over the mall to Pasig City, Cainta filed yet another motion for reconsideration.

Cainta Mayor Mon Ilagan said he was bent on protecting the interest of his constituents and that he would do every legal action to do it.

Ilagan's press officer, Jules Quintana, said that the town filed a new motion for reconsideration because there were pieces of evidence which the court apparently had failed to consider.

Quintana said the lot on which the mall was sitting was right in the middle of lots within the jurisdiction of Cainta.

"This motion, if not given a chance to be reviewed extensively and be finally denied via a mere resolution, will result [in] an absurd situation," Cainta's motion said.

It added, "[A] portion of one local government unit (Pasig) will find itself in somewhere else's territory ... (Cainta)."

Cainta said that with the motion for reconsideration, a status quo should be observed and that stall owners at Sta. Lucia should still pay their taxes to the town.

But a Pasig City official warned stall owners that tax payments to Cainta would not absolve them of tax liabilities to Pasig should the high tribunal finally resolve the dispute in favor of the city.

"We are advising affected stall owners to pay their taxes to Pasig City," said the official.

"They should not be afraid. They have a legal justification because the Supreme Court Third Division has decided the issue with finality," he added.

Pasig City won a tax collection case against Sta. Lucia filed earlier before the Regional Trial Court. The Court of Appeals later rejected a motion filed by Cainta.

The Supreme Court also denied a petition for review submitted by Cainta.


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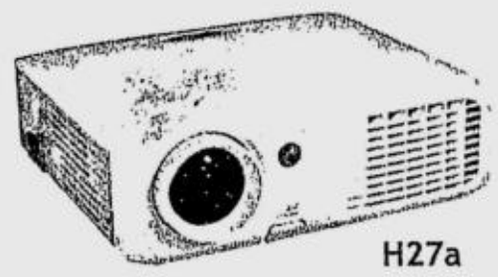
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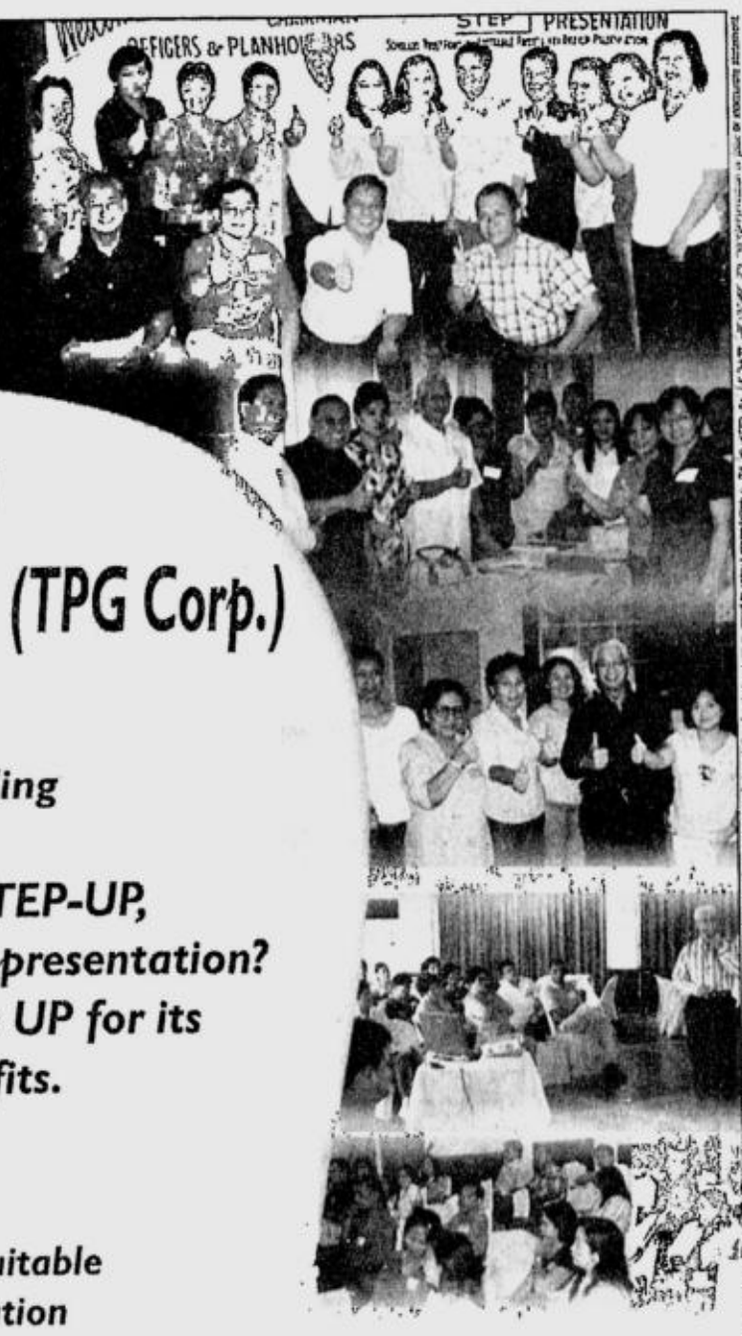

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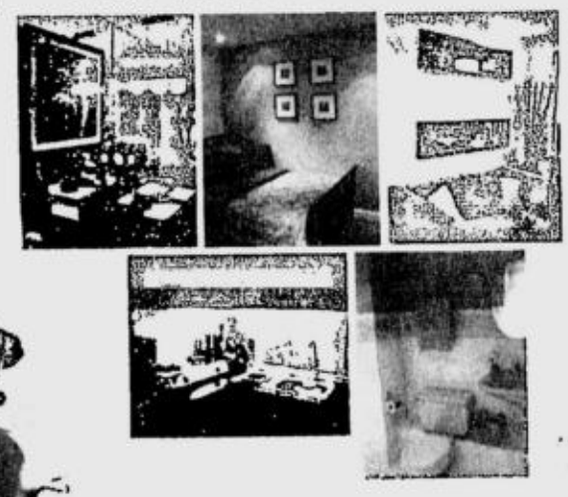

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# There's no stopping Christmas on Policarpio

SEVEN months of planning show at the traditional Christmas display of the Lim family on Policarpio Street, Mandaluyong City. Its main goal? To keep the spirit of Christmas alive in hard times. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

NOT EVEN SOARING ELECTRICITY RATES could stop businesswoman Norma Lim from lighting up her neighborhood in Mandaluyong City this Christmas.

Thanks to her ingenuity and creativity, she is keeping alive a decade-old family tradition of adorning her houses on Policarpio Street with thousands of bright lights.

"My fulfillment as a Christian comes from seeing other people happy despite their problems," Lim, 57, said in Filipino, looking at the throng that had gathered outside her houses.

Christmas started early along Policarpio on Monday when she switched on the lights, which have made the 700-meter street a seasonal attraction.

But spectators—with their eyes beaming—may never even know of the seven months of research and planning that went into this year's display.

Much of the research went into reducing costs by 50 percent.

Last year, tube lights, which consume more electricity, were the main light sources. This year, tube lights are hung alternately with ordinary Christmas lights.

Spaces between the decors are also wider now as fewer strands of lights were used.

Lim and her whole family targets to reduce electric consumption from almost P75,000 for two months last year, to only P35,000 this year.

## Cheaper

The materials used in a huge Belen, the traditional Nativity scene, on top of her other house are also cheaper.

Instead of using plywood, artists used Styrofoam and plastic sheets for the background paintings and the replica of the manger.

However, there's a trade off: Plywood is more fire resistant.

The characters are mostly papier-mâché—but are all mechanical: Baby Jesus moves his arms and legs, a sheep-bearing shepherd looks around, while a horse peeping out of the stable moves its head up and down.

"We recycled most of our materials from last year," said Lim's 26-year-old son Paul, who helped in the design.

Tell that to 10-year-old Marjorie, who said this year's display outdid last year's.

Marjorie and her cousin walked several blocks to see the Christmas show Friday night. What she saw was a delight.

"*Mas maganda po ngayon*," she told the INQUIRER, looking at the toys lined against a small replica of a castle.

## A castle, a bazaar

The castle sits on top the garage of Lim's two houses, which she has also converted into a bazaar, selling toys, snacks, bags, dresses and sandals she imported from China.

Smiling, Lim calls the artwork on the garage "Mandaluyong's Disneyland."

In place of the huge Santa Claus last year, Lim displayed cartoon characters on top of the bazaar, also illuminated by bright lights.

SpongeBob looks out from the castle as Garfield gazes nearby. The Power Puff Girls pose meters from Mickey Mouse. Dolls ride hot-air balloons, which are actually just plastic baskets.

Marjorie was fondest of Winnie The Pooh, standing in one of the castle windows. But affordable kitchenware sold at the bazaar was what thrilled her cousin, Jenalyn, 31.

Carrying her year-old son, Jenalyn paid the P10-consumable entrance fee to the bazaar and started looking for something to buy.

## Feels like Christmas

"We don't have Christmas lights at home. At least here, I can really feel Christmas," Jenalyn said, her son busy pointing at the toys lying around them.

Lim is set to further delight her neighbors and visitors—some even come from the provinces—when she opens the lights on her third house at the other end of the street weeks from now.

The decors will speak of a new theme.

"We want to show how we Filipinos celebrate Christmas. We want to remind our people about our culture," Lim said, afraid that Christmas in the country is becoming more and more commercialized.

Visitors can expect to see papier-mâché figures of men grilling "lechon baboy" and people gathered to eat, surrounded by bright lights.

But the expensive decoration is not the only thing that thrills Lim's neighbors. Her rags-to-riches story inspires them to strive harder. And that makes her happy.

"The Lord provides resources to people who want to help others," Lim said.

"Many people helped me and my siblings when our parents died when we were still young. I want to follow that example," she said with a smile.

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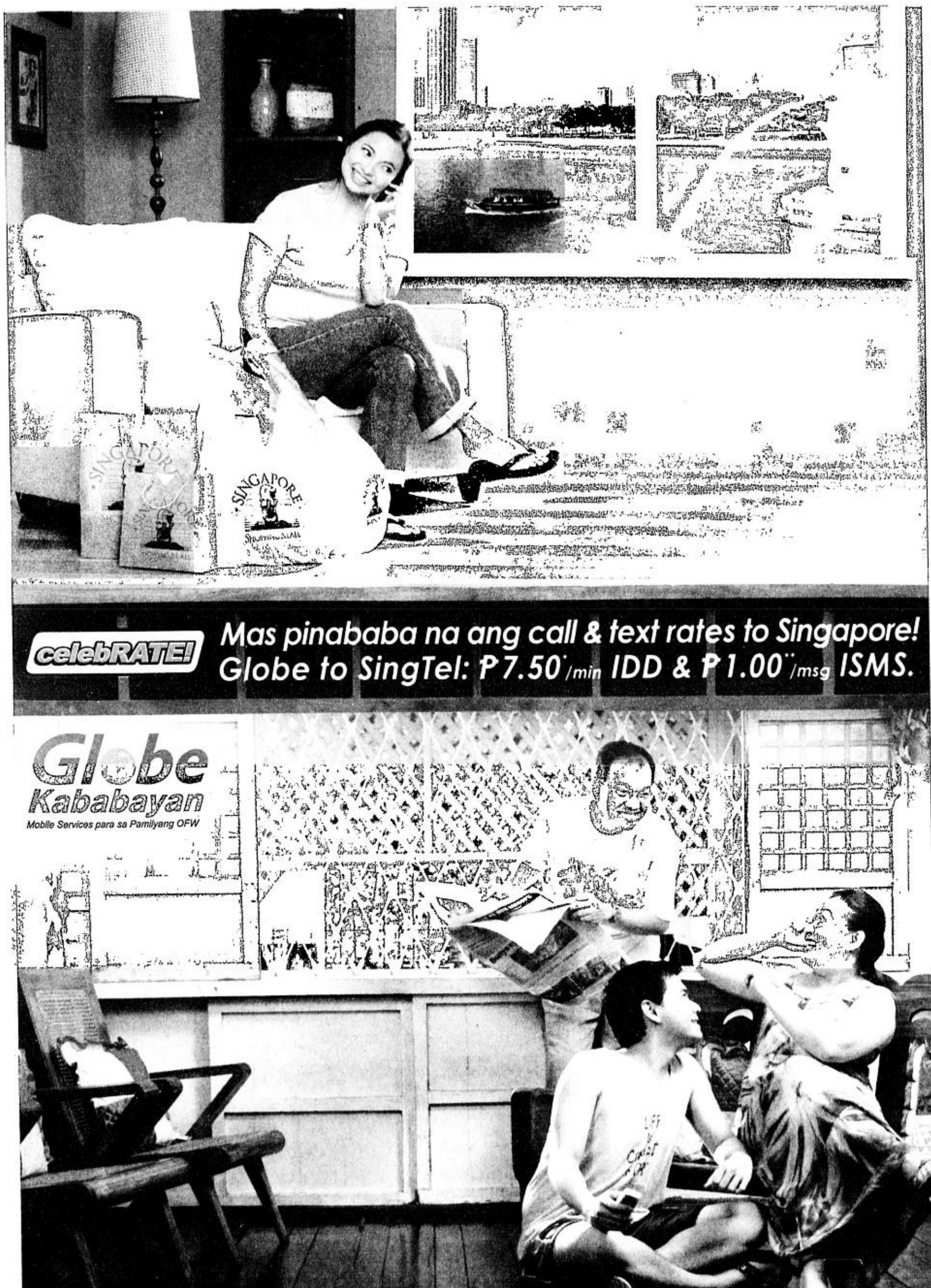

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

# Murakami quits RP team

By Musong R. Castillo

ARTEMIO MURAKAMI HURDLED the third stage of the tough Japanese Tour's qualifying series on Friday, putting him on the verge of making it to Asia's richest pro circuit but forcing him to quit the Philippine team that will see action in the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

The 22-year-old Murakami will beg off from joining the RP men's golf team when he arrives from Japan tomorrow, automatically putting young Tonlits Asistio into the four-man squad and leaving one slot open.

Incidentally, Murakami advanced to the Tour's final stage, which will be held at the same time as the SEAG set Nov. 27-Dec. 5, together with the revered Frankie Miñoza, who lost his exempt status last year.

The winner of the RP Amateurs at the age of 15 in 1999, Murakami wound up tied with Miñoza in 15th spot with level 288s at the Onotoyo layout in Kobe, and the duo joined 28 others in the final 72 holes on Nov. 30 in Kumamoto City.

Miñoza fired rounds of 70, 72, 71 and 75 while Murakami scored 76-70-68-74.

Asistio, the long-hitting 16-year-old, was supposed to take the No. 4 spot after Juvic Pagunsan, Murakami and former caddies' champion Jay Bayron.

The coaching staff led by Bong Lopez and National Golf Association of the Philippines director Roberto Sabularze will now have to name a fourth player, which will likely come from among Michael Bibat, Marvin Dumandan and Gene Bondoc.

Incidentally, the Country Club course in Canlubang was named venue for both the men's and ladies' tournaments after the Manila Golf inside posh Forbes Park was declared unfit to host the ladies' event.

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# SLR 5 shocks P. Pals

**GAMES TODAY** (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:10 p.m.—Purefoods vs Red Bull Barako
6:40 p.m.—Alaska vs Coca-Cola

KENNETH DUREMDES HIT A BASELINE triple with less than a second left to lift Sta. Lucia to a 100-97 victory over Talk 'N Text yesterday in a San Mig Coffee PBA Fiesta Conference out-of-town match in Zamboanga City.

The game was tied at 97 with 16 seconds remaining and the Phone Pals had a chance to win it outright, but Damien Cantrell took an ill-advised triple that missed and left the Realtors with a little over two seconds remaining for a game-winner.

It was the second straight win for the Realtors after snapping a five-game losing spell. They notched their fourth win in 10 games.

The Phone Pals lost their third game in nine assignments and that stalled Joel Banal's appointment as head coach of one of the teams in the All-Star game in Laoag City.

The head coaches of the top two teams in the standings after Nov. 16 will the handle the North and South squads for this year's All-Star.

Meanwhile, league-leading Purefoods Chunkee will try to hit two birds with one stone when it clashes with the Red Bull Barako today at the Araneta Coliseum.

A win in the 4:10 p.m. contest moves the Giants closer to an automatic semifinal slot halfway through the classification phase and guarantees that head coach Ryan Gregorio gets to call the shots for the first time in the All-Star Game.

"More than coaching in the All-Star Game, we have to keep our lofty position, especially here in the second half of the elims," said Gregorio.

But the Barako are out to claim a second straight tournament heavyweight, coming into the game fresh from dealing the Barangay Ginebra Kings a sound beating the other night.

Leaning on rookie Leo Najorda's fourth-quarter exploits and a near triple-double by Quemont Greer, the Barako halted the four-game winning streak of the Kings and improved to 5-4 overall.

"We caught Ginebra on a bad night," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao. "Purefoods is also due for a loss and I hope we could catch them (on a bad night) on Sunday (today)."

The Coca-Cola Tigers and the Alaska Aces, losers in their last outing, collide in the featured game at 6:40 p.m.

The Tigers were the last team to lose to the Giants after failing to get significant contributions from Omar Thomas and Rafi Reavis. Worse, coach Binky Favis will not have point guard Dennis Miranda, who has a dislocated toe.

Don Allado will again suit for the Aces after serving a one-game suspension on top of a P20,000 fine for slapping Red Bull's Enrico Villanueva. *June Navarro*

**The scores:**

**STA. LUCIA 100**—Weaver 25, Cabagnot 19, Duremdes 15, Aquino 14, Tolomia 13, Espino 3, Omolon 3, Catli 3, Calimag 2, Sta. Maria 2, Mendoza 2, Cuan 0.

**TALK N TEXT 97**—Cantrell 20, Taulava 20, Alapag 20, Telan 19, Miller 6, Cardona 4, Pablo 3, Carey 3, Washington 2, Bolano 0.

**Quarters**: 28-29, 61-52, 84-80, 100-97

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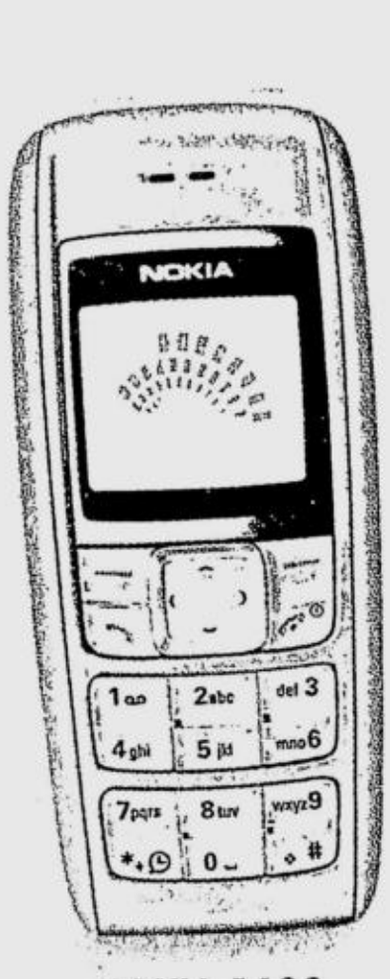


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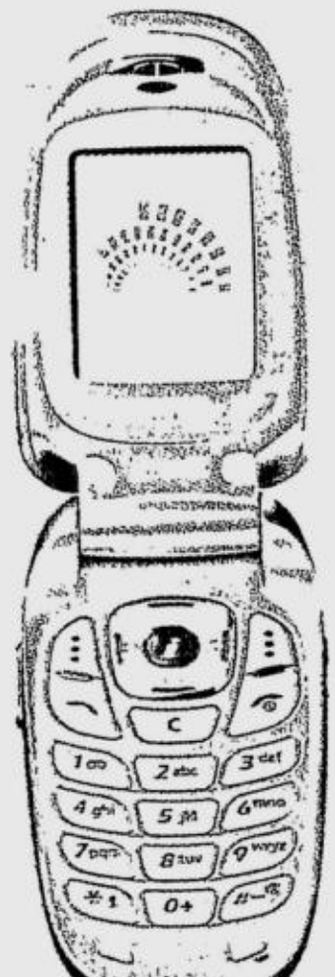

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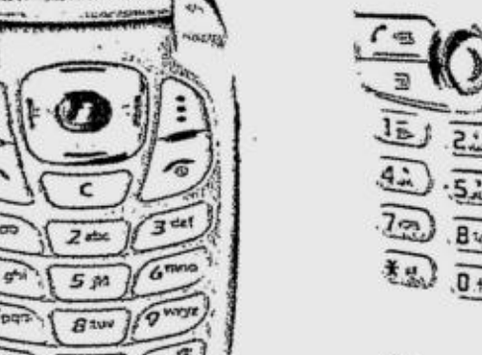

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# Arevalo seals title match vs HK bet

By Marc Anthony Reyes

**CZARINA MAE AREVALO SUSTAINED HER impressive form, bucking an injured shoulder to oust Chen Yi of Taiwan, 7-6 (2), 7-5, yesterday to reach the finals of the $10,000 Holcim ITF Women's Circuit 1 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.**

The 20-year-old Arevalo secured her first ever ITF finals appearance by patiently wearing down the fifth-seeded Taiwanese despite a hurting right shoulder which she sustained while training in India for the coming Southeast Asian Games.

"This is very special for me because I've worked hard for this victory. I had to endure the pain in my shoulder. I just hope I can win the title, I'm going to give it my best shot tomorrow," said Arevalo, a college freshman at the Ateneo.

Standing in her way is 16-year-old Chan Wing-Yau of Hong Kong, who made it to the finals via an impressive 4-6, 6-0, 6-3 upset of Korean top seed Lyoo Suh Hee-sun in the other semis match.

The match will be held at 9:30 a.m. with the hometown crowd rooting for the Filipina against the Hong Kong lass who is competing in her first ITF tournament.

Currently ranked No. 46 in the ITF Juniors, Chan owns a victory over Arevalo in their first ever meeting last month, a 7-5, 3-6, 6-3 win in the second round of the Asian Tennis Championships in Uzbekistan.

The country's top women's player, Arevalo hopes to become only the second Filipino to win the Holcim. Maricris Fernandez, the 1999 SEAG gold winner, won the tourney's first leg via a 6-2, 6-0 rout of Lara van Rooyen in 1998.

"I think I have achieved a level of maturity to sustain big matches like that," said Arevalo who needed two hours and 26 minutes to finish off the Taiwanese.

However, she will have her hands full against Chan, whose climb to the finals was marked with impressive wins, including an upset over third seed Rebecca Fong (6-3, 6-0) in the quarterfinals.

"It feels good to beat the top seed. I did not expect to win but I thought that I had a chance after beating the third seed in the quarters," said the 5-foot-3 Chan, who is a few inches shorter than Arevalo but is a crafty and quick player.

Chan expertly handled the moon balls thrown at her by Lyoo in an attempt to disrupt her rhythm in the first set. Instead, the Hong Kong bet responded with sharp angled returns and unloaded drop shots to take charge in the second set.

"In the third set, I was more in control of the match," said Chan, a quarterfinalist in last month's Osaka Mayor's Cup-World Super Junior Championships. She has won four singles and four doubles titles so far.

The singles champion will receive six circuit points and $1,568 while the singles runner-up will get $980 in the event supported by the ITF Grand Slam Development Fund, Dunlop balls, Manila Pavilion and the Philippine Sports Commission. The Doubles champions get $637 and doubles runners-up $343.

CZARINA Mae Arevalo shows her winning form against fifth seed Chen YI of Taiwan in the semis of the Holcim ITF women's circuit at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

## 24th PCA Open tennis begins Dec. 3

THE 24th PCA OPEN, THE COUNTRY'S oldest and most prestigious tennis championships, will hold its team tennis championships on Dec. 3 at the PCA shell courts in Paco, Manila.

Men's team action will run Dec. 3-4, 11, 17-18, while the ladies' edition will be held Dec. 13, 15-18, according to chief organizer Efren Ocampo.

Presented by Basilan Gov. Muslim "Wahab" Akbar, the PCA Open juniors are slated Nov. 25 to Dec. 4 with competitions for boys and girls 10-under (unisex), 12-under, 14-under, 16-under and 18-under in the singles competition.

Doubles events will be for 14-under and 18-under in the juniors competitions.

"These events should serve as an aperitif for the main draw which is expected to be more exciting with the presence of Filipino and Fil-American players who will try to wrest the titles from the Koreans," said Ocampo.

The qualifying rounds for the men's and ladies' singles and doubles competitions are set for Dec. 5-9, while main draw will be on Dec. 10-18.

Deadline for submission of entries is on or before noontime of Nov. 20 for the team tennis and juniors. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

# Tierro, Arcilla dispute Subic Bay singles plum

By Dennis U. Eroa
*Inquirer Libre sports editor*

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—TOP seed Patrick John Tierro and second seed Johnny Arcilla dispatched their respective semifinals rivals in contrasting fashions to arrange a final showdown Friday night in the Cebuana Lhuillier-sponsored Subic Bay Invitationals at the Subic Bay International Tennis Center hardcourts here.

Tierro provided the day's thrill before a highly appreciative crowd as he extended his domination over fourth seed Chiemil Mantua, 6-2, 6-1, even as Arcilla walked the tightrope before subduing third seed and fellow Davis Cupper Rolando Ruel, 7-5, 6-4.

A forehand shot which kissed the net enabled Ruel to break Arcilla in the seventh game, 4-3, and took command, 5-3, with a superb volley and a service winner in the first set.

But Arcilla, who with Tierro is using this week-long event also sponsored by LeSoleil Boracay and sanctioned by the Philippine Tennis Association, as final preparation for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, was far from finished.

He held serve in the next game and deadlocked the see-sawing match with a break as Ruel appeared to lost his composure.

Ruel trailed at 5-6, but seemed all set to force a tie-break when he led 40-0 only to hit an easy forehand wide and missed two half volleys which enabled Arcilla to deuce. Arcilla closed out the set with a smash and a perfect backhand which forced Ruel to miss a half volley.

But it was Tierro, who shone in an evening of dazzling tennis. Tierro previously won all his three encounters against the left-handed Mantua but not before being extended to three setters.

It was clear, though, that Tierro's not in the mood to stay long in the Cebuana Lhuillier center court. He sowed fear with a break in the opening game of the first set and from hereon it was an all-Tierro show with his crisp backhands and a thunderous forehand which often caught Mantua flatfooted.

The 6-foot-1 pride of Olongapo City again broke Mantua in the first and third games for a 5-0 lead in the second set. If any consolation, Mantua earned the distinction of becoming the first netter to break Tierro's serve this week as he won the 6th game, 1-5.

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- Festival launch and
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  November 9
  Greenbelt 3 Cinema lobby
- "Deep Blue"
  regular screening
  November 10-15
  Greenbelt 3 Cinema 3
- Photo exhibit
  by Gutsy Tuason
  Opening November 16
  Greenbelt 3 Cinema lobby
- Food festival
  November 23
  Greenbelt 3 Park
- Closing Ceremonies
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  2/F landing Greenbelt 3

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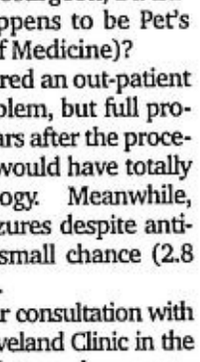


*Al S. Mendoza*

I COULD STILL BE IN SHANGHAI WHILE you are reading this as today is supposed to be the last day of the HSBC Champions Tournament featuring no less than the world No. 1 golfer himself, Tiger Woods.

As I said, the reason I am in Shanghai is I won the grand raffle of the HSBC Invitational Championship in Tagaytay Highlands/Midlands some weeks back. Thus, I am now a distinguished guest here (ahem!).

I couldn't thank HSBC top honcho, Warner Manning, enough for the rare opportunity of being invited to his prestige-laden tournament in Tagaytay, with no less than Johnny Litton emceeing the event's awarding ceremonies.

And as my name was plucked out from the tambiolo during the raffle, Johnny Litton excitedly related to the participants packed at The China Palace at how he and I were so happy together during the Johnnie Walker Classic in Phuket about a decade back.

My, how time flies.

Indeed, Johnny and I, together with Richard Gomez and our gracious host, Lito Caballero, had a grand time in that Johnnie Walker bash as we literally frolicked in the sun, not to mention me playing in the Pro-Am as the amateur partner of, who else, but Ernie Els. I wore my hair with a pony tail then and Els loved to stroke it. When we saw each other again about three years later with the pony tail gone, I thought he wouldn't recognize me anymore. He had become Big Easy, the winner of the US Open.

But no, he had not forgotten.

"Hey, buddy, where's that pony tail of yours?"

He couldn't remember my name, but he remembered my "colleta."

Ah, those were the days.

Today, Phuket, that island-paradise in Thailand where I had stayed in a wind-blown Balinese hut by the seaside for almost a week, is still recovering from that devastating tsunami that shocked the world some time ago. The rebuilding process in Phuket is Boracay's gain as Phuket's visitors from Europe this time of the year flocked instead to that famed resort in Aklan.

As *balikbayan* Soc Sison said: "I was in Boracay for three days and I was dwarfed by foreigners all over."

* * *

Sportsman Bert Bravo of U-Bix Corp., father of the National Pro-Am at Riviera, has a nephew, the 27-year-old Patrick Bravo, who had a sudden generalized early morning seizure while asleep on Oct. 15. Patrick's wife, Heili, panicked but luckily, Patrick's father, the cardiologist Pet Bravo (Bert's brother), was around. The couple lives with Patrick's parents in Makati.

A CT scan of Patrick's brain at the Manila Doctors Hospital showed a 1.6-cm congenital anomaly called an AVM (Arteriovenous Malformation), which was later confirmed by a cerebral angiogram at UP-PGH.

This vascular lesion in the brain could cause severe headaches, repeated seizures and even a bleed.

Brain experts in Manila had advised Drs. Pet and Lulu Bravo that their son has only two options for treatment; namely, surgery or non-invasive gamma radiation.

For several days, Pet and Lulu agonized over the dilemma of having surgery and having outright protection (but Patrick will be exposed to risks of stroke and bleeding due to the precarious location of his AVM, not to mention possible infection).

Or will Patrick rather have "gamma knife" (at the Philippine Gamma Knife Center at Cardinal Santos Medical Center headed by a leading neurosurgeon, Dr. Eduardo Mercado, who happens to be Pet's classmate at UP College of Medicine)?

The latter modality offered an out-patient approach to Patrick's problem, but full protection is obtained two years after the procedure when the radiation would have totally obliterated the pathology. Meanwhile, Patrick may still have seizures despite anti-convulsants and even a small chance (2.8 percent) of cerebral bleed.

On Oct. 20, upon further consultation with a neurosurgeon at the Cleveland Clinic in the US, the decision for Patrick to undergo gamma radiation was adopted. Through the magic of the state-of-the-art gamma knife facility at CSMC, plus the expertise of Dr. Ed Mercado and his team, Patrick underwent a successful procedure on Oct. 26. The next day, Patrick went home literally walking out of the hospital practically unscathed.

Unknown to many, since seven years ago, Dr. Mercado and his team had been silently giving Filipino patients with AVMs and tumors a bloodless option to these potentially bloody disorders.

The good thing about it is, they do it not only to paying patients but also to charity patients as well. For to paraphrase their mission statement: "Our goal is to give the Filipino patients of all socio-economic levels, a cutting-edge non-invasive option in the treatment of brain disorders."

May their tribe increase.

* * *

FASTBREAK. The "Retail Archaeology" of the Vintage Bazaar will be featured today from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Rockwell Tent/Power Plant in Makati. Shoppers are given the chance to discover the Philippines' young, emerging talented designers and entrepreneurs.

* * *

*E-mail: menju@pldtdsl.net*

# National booters get boost

THE PHILIPPINE MEN'S football team stands to receive a windfall with a medal finish in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

Red Bull Energy Drink owner George Chua has promised to give the national booters P1 million if they emerge champion, P500,000 if they bag the silver medal and P250,000 for a bronze.

GEORGE Chua (second from left) forges incentive agreement with PFF president Johnny Romualdez. With them is Tony Chua and Raffy Casiao.

Chua, a renowned sports patron who used to play football with Letran in the NCAA, announced the incentives in a recent meeting with Philippine Football Federation president Johnny Romualdez. The meeting was arranged by another Red Bull top honcho Tony Chua, also a former Letran booter and executive vice president of the PFF.

"People know that I love basketball but I also love football so much, that's why whatever help we can give, Red Bull will be there," said George Chua.

# RP futsal team faces Thailand in 1st Asian Indoor

By Jasmine W. Payo

BANGKOK—THE NATIONAL WOmen's futsal team formed just five months ago gets the ball rolling for the Philippine campaign in the first Asian Indoor Games when the Filipinas battle Thailand at the Bangkok Youth Center here.

"Skills-wise, we're very good—in dribbling and in control," said coach Manny Batungbacal. "Because the space is so small in futsal, a minor error can make a big difference."

Eight countries will see action in the men's competition, with the Philippines withdrawing at the last minute because of lack of funds. Four nations are represented in the women's event.

Gametime is at 5 p.m. (6 p.m. in Manila). The nationals clash with Jordan at 3 p.m. tomorrow and Uzbekistan at 5 p.m. on Tuesday.

The RP men's futsal team backed out after failing to raise enough funds for the eight-day tournament, which features 37 countries competing for 121 gold medals in nine sports.

"We've only competed in local tournaments but most of the members of our team have been playing since 2001," said Batungbacal. "We also have former national football players, so experience-wise, we have an advantage."

Among those who took the shift from football to futsal is team captain Angie Servillon, who will lead the Philippines' 17-man crew, along with seasoned futsal player Tiffany Pagal.

"We will rely on Angie's experience," noted Batungbacal. "Tiffany really started as a futsal player, so she knows the moves and can control the ball very well."

The duo will be backstopped by Marijen Ariel of Assumption College and Ria Tanjuanco and Celine Lopez of Ateneo de Manila.

"We have players from 18 to 39 years old," said Batungbacal. "But even if there's a wide age gap, they all move like 20-year-olds. They're all strong and fast."

The Filipinos are also seeing action in dancesports on Nov. 14-15, in muay thai from Nov. 14-18, in extreme sports (BMX stunts and sports climbing) from Nov. 14 to 17 and in aerobics on Nov. 16 to 17.

Among the five sports, Philippine chef de mission Harry Angping is expecting a strong finish in dancesports. But Batungbacal remained confident that the women's futsal team could pull off some surprises.

"The other teams don't have any idea about us," said Batungbacal. "But the composure of the team is there."

## Tuason Cup at Speedzone

THE SIXTH ARTHUR Tuason Memorial Cup will be held today at the Manila Speedzone.

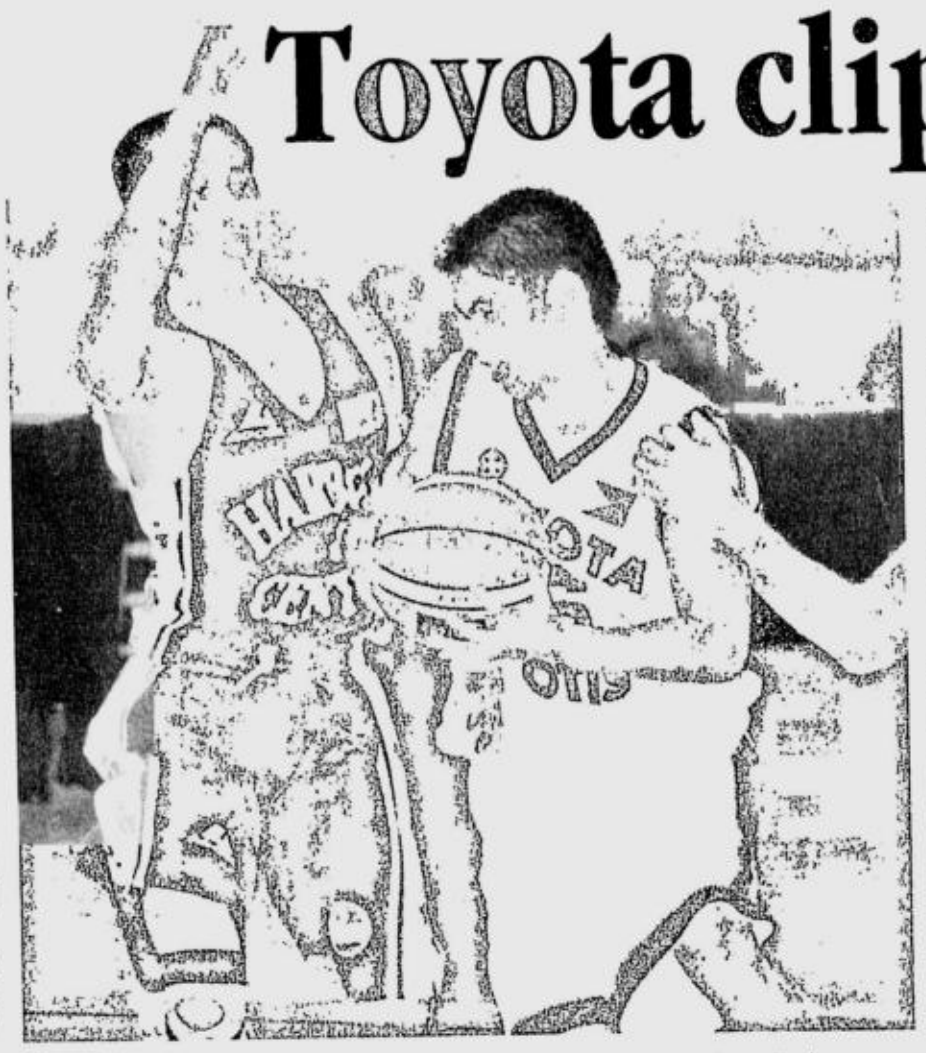
Part of the proceeds will go to the Mabuhay Desert Foundation, which helps arrange treatment for less fortunate kids born with minor deformities and are in need of corrective surgery.

Up for grabs are cash awards totaling more than P100,000 and prizes such as a set of Goodyear tires, G-shock, Adidas, Oakley, Ambi Pur and Addict Mobile items.

Organized by the Tuason Racing School, the event is being held in honor of the late motor racing legend Arthur Tuason.

For inquiries, call 635-2587 or 747-2378, email TRS at info@tuasonracing.com or log on to www.tuasonracing.com.

# Toyota clips Harbour Centre



TOYOTA Otis' John Paul Alcaraz drives past Harbour Centre's Ryan Dy in yesterday's game at the FEU Gym. RYAN LIM

GAMES THURSDAY (*JCSGO Gym, Cubao*)
2 p.m.—Hapee vs Granny Goose Tortillos
4 p.m.—Montafia Pawnshop vs Far Eastern Insurance

By Marc Anthony Reyes

**JOE DEVANCE DISPLAYED STEELY nerves on the foul line, making four crucial charities in overtime as Toyota Otis dealt Harbour Centre its first loss with an 85-80 triumph yesterday in the PBL Heroes Cup at the FEU Gym.**

The 6-foot-7 Devance, the conference's top pick, scored 18 points, including the free throws that sealed Toyota Otis' first victory in three starts.

Devance also grabbed 10 rebounds and had five blocked shots, while JP Alcaraz and Ron Capati tallied 13 each.

Magnolia later outlasted Hapee-PCU in a thriller of a match, 65-64, to remain as the only unbeaten team in the field.

Kelly Williams shone brightest again for the Wizards, coming up with a defensive gem and a rim-rattling dunk at the most crucial moments to help Magnolia keep the solo lead at 3-0.

The Teethmasters fell to 1-2.

**The scores:**

**First Game**

**TOYOTA OTIS 85**—Devance 18, Capati 13, Alcaraz 13, Oreta 11, Bautista 9, Aldave 9, Aban 5, Larong 4, Daa 3, Rodriguez 0.

**HARBOUR CENTRE 80**—Yeo 19, Gaco 13, Arellano 12, Saguindel 12, Paterno 8, Paterno 8, Reyes 6, Dy 4, Alonzo 2, Luanzon 2, Vicente 2, Dizon 0, Dela Peña 0.

**Quarters:** 25-12, 37-31, 58-52, 73-73, 85-80.

**Second Game**

**MAGNOLIA 65**—Williams 10, Isip 10, Angeles 8, Rizada 7, Santos 7, Jones 6, Te 5, Valenzuela 4, Chan 3, Bombeo 0, Misolas 2, Co 0.

**HAPEE-PCU 64**—Castro 24, Gonzales 12, Moreño 10, Espinas 8, Misa 3, Sanz 3, Razon 2, Garrido 2, Gloria 0, Cecilia 0.

**Quarters:** 18-13, 31-29, 44-50, 65-54.

# Unson, Baldo top TJGL tourney

REIGNING US KIDS WORLD CHAMpion Andie Unson and Moshe Baldo topped their respective divisions in the recent fourth anniversary tournament of The Junior Golfers League (TJGL) at the Valley Golf and Country Club executive course in Antipolo.

Baldo scored an even-par 72 then nipped Marco Olives in a countback to claim the boys Class A plum. Both finished two shots ahead of Marlo Capinianes and Meynard Co.

Unson carded an 80 to wind up nine shots clear of Princess Superal in girls Class D.

Other winners in the boys division were Lawrence Celestino (Class B), Joel Pauig (Class C), RJ Tallud (Class D), Rupert Zaragoza (Class E) and William Lanz Uy (Class F). Joining Unson as girls division champions were Erika Salinas, Cyna Rodriguez, Regan de Guzman, Arienne Salvador and Mi Gi Kim.

# The Orchard tilt stakes luxury cars

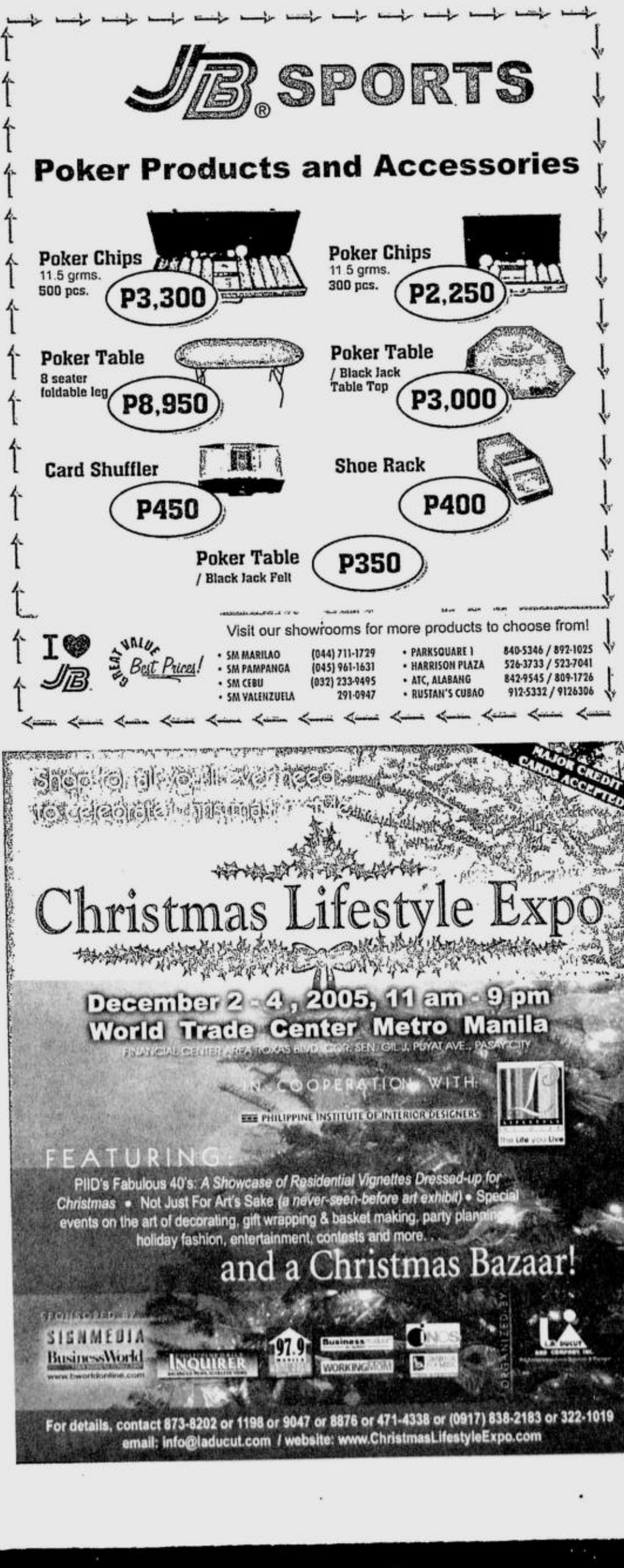
A BMW MSPORT AND A NISSAN CEfiro Classic and other major prizes will be won at The Orchard Grand Raffle while an SUV will be up for grabs as hole-in-one prize on seven par three holes at The Orchard Founders Invitational Golf Tournament set Nov. 24-27 at The Orchard Golf and Country Club's two championship courses.

Each of the expected 700 participants will have seven chances to drive home a Ford Explorer XLT worth P2 million which is on offer as hole-in-one prize on seven par 3s of the Gary Player and Arnold Palmer courses of the exclusive layout.

Around P1.4 million worth of appliances and golf items will be available as raffle prizes for tournament participants at the scheduled Thursday and Friday cocktails and at the Sunday Awards Night. With the 700 participants and the value of raffle items, this year's edition of the Founders Cup is the biggest in its nine-year history.

The Awards Night and Grand Raffle Draw promises a lot of fun, food and dancing with the Spirit of '67 Band doing the honors. Hosts for the evening are Ms Vernie Varga and Boboy Garrovillo. With the following day, Nov. 28, having been declared a public holiday in lieu of the 30th, participants are expected to wine, dine and dance the night away.

Major sponsors are Globe Telecoms, Ford Philippines, Golf King, Sta. Elena Properties Inc. and Sta. Lucia Realty & Development Corp.



# Iverson in Sixer

**PHILADELPHIA—ALLEN IVERSON OUTPLAYED Kobe Bryant in an anticipated matchup Friday of the NBA's leading scorers, scoring 34 points and hitting the winner with 22.2 seconds left to lead the 76ers to an 85-81 win over the Lakers.**

Iverson—having an awful quarter after he missed an easy layup, two free throws and was whistled for traveling in the fourth quarter—stepped just inside the 3-point arc and made a jumper in the final seconds for an 83-81 lead.

Bryant missed a jumper over Andre Iguodala with about 5 seconds left, and Iverson made two free throws to seal Philadelphia's third straight win.

In other games, Utah routed Toronto, 99-84; Indiana dumped New Jersey, 102-90; Washington crushed Seattle, 137-96; Dallas dominated Charlotte, 98-88; San Antonio clubbed Boston, 103-82; Cleveland blasted Memphis, 89-70; Sacramento dismissed Denver, 101-85; Detroit tripped Portland, 84-81 and Golden State nipped New York, 86-84.

In Cleveland, LeBron James scored 16 points, Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 14 points and 12 rebounds and Cleveland clamped down defensively on Memphis.

The Cavs, improving each time out under first-year coach Mike Brown, contested every shot, outhustled the Grizzlies to every loose ball and dominated the boards, outrebounding Memphis 49-29

IVERSON REUTERS

# Tiger misses birdies, lea

SHANGHAI, CHINA—TIGER Woods missed two birdie putts and another to save par by inches Saturday, and finished one stroke behind David Howell after three rounds of the HSBC Champions tournament.

Woods had a 5-under 67 and was 15 under, sharing second place with Australia's Nick O'Hern going into Sunday's final round.

Howell, the joint overnight leader at 12-under, missed a simple birdie putt at the last and settled for a 68 to move to 16 under.

O'Hern, who was equal third with Woods at 10 under on Friday, was a model of consistency, shooting a 67 for the third consecutive round.

Thailand's Wiratchant Thaworn shot a 68 and was 12-under, one in front of US Open champion Michael Campbell (69 Bjorn (69) and Nick who had a 73 after sta share of the lead.

No. 2-ranked Vijay S 70 and was a stroke fur 10 under.

Woods hit his tee sh three feet of the cup at t 17th, but his birdie pu the lip.

PIERCE: Too perfect for Mauresmo (right). REUTERS

# Pierce stays

LOS ANGELES—MARY PIERCE DEFEATED Amelie Mauresmo, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2, in an all-French match at the WTA Championships on Friday night to complete round-robin play with a 3-0 record.

By winning, Pierce finished first in the Black group and will play top-

rank day Gre D va Petr in t

| Channel | 2:00PM | 2:30PM | 3:00PM | 3:30PM | 4:00PM | 4:30PM | 5:00PM | 5:30PM | 6:00PM | 6:30PM | 7:00PM | 7:30PM | 8:00PM | 8:30PM | 9:00PM | 9:30PM | 10:00PM | 10:30PM | 11:00PM | 11:30PM |
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| MTV Philippines | Mush | | | Laguna Beach | MTV Cribs | Wade Robson Project | Viva La Bam | Pimp My Ride | Get Hitched | MTV Screen | The 70's House | Spring Break | MTV Presents | | | | | | Whatever Things | MTV Hits | Essential VH1 | |
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| CNN | International Correspondents | World News | The Daily Show John Stewart Global Edition | | World News | World Sport | Larry King Live | | World News | Talk Asia | World News | The Daily Show John Stewart Global Edition | World News | Sportscenter Asia | Main Sail | | World News | World Sport | Global Challenges | CNN Business Traveller | Talk Asia | Next@CNN |
| ESPN | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | NBA Jam | | Boxing: Kirscho vs. Rahman | | | | | RTC # 12 |
| Solar Sports | | 2005 US Open 9-Ball C'ship | | | WTA '05 Kremlin Cup S-Finals Russia | | | | NBA Game: Utah Jazz @ Chicago Bulls | | | | | | | | BD Hawaiian Tropic | Inside the PGA | Franklin Templeton Shootout Day2 | | | |
| Sports Plus | | | | | The Tour C'ship Highlights | | Slipstream | | Celebrity Poker Tournament | | | | | Racewarld | | | Wonderland | | | Bean (10:45PM) | | |
| Cinemax | | | Elmore Leonard's Gold Coast | | | | | The Reality Of Love (5:45 PM) | | | | No Way Up | | | | | Midsomar Murders: Destroying Angel | | | Category 6: Days Of Destruction | | |
| Hallmark Channel | The Nanny | Reversible Errors | | | | | Reversible Errors | | | | Valentin | | | | | | Mr. Bean | America's Funniest Home Video | Phil Of The Future | Even Stevens | Wonderful World Of Disney | |
| Disney Channel | Recess | Totally Spies | Lizzie Mcguire | Brandy & Mr. Whiskers | Lilo & Stitch | Totally Spies | Mr. Bean | Phil Of The Future | Suite Life Of Zack And Cody | | That's So Raven | Wonderful World Of Disney | | | | | Journey To The Bottom Of The Sea | | FBI Files | | Power Zone | |
| Discovery Channel | | Mostly True Stories | | American Chopper | | IBM Innovation Hour | | | | | Hour Asia | | Cathay Pacific Signature Series | | | | Best Of The Week | | No Borders | | | |
| National Geographic | | No Borders | | | Bonco Beyond The Grave | Amazing Moments | | Evolution | | | | | Megastructures | | | | Cartoon Cartoon Show | Crush Gear Nitro | Power Rangers Ninja Storm | Justice League | Harvey Birdman (11:15PM) | Mission Hill |
| Cartoon Network | | Police Academy | The Detective Squad | Tom & Jerry Show | The Road Runner Show | The Powerpuff Girls | Winx Club | The Life & Times Of Juniper Lee | The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy | Samurai Jack | Teen Titans | The Looney Tunes Show | | | | | Unfabulous | Girls In Love | My Dad The Rock Star | Four Eyes | The Wild Thornberrys | The Brothers Garcia |
| Nickelodeon | My Life As A Teenage Robot | Unfabulous | Naturally Sadie | Romeo | Drake & Josh | Chalizone | Avatar: The Last Airbender | My Life As A Teenage Robot | My Life As A Teenage Robot | 1, 2, 3 | The Fairly Odd Parents | Four Eyes | Romeo | | | | The Hours | | | | Cosm House | |
| Lifestyle Network | Date With Design | Ground Rules | Outer Spaces | Your Private Island | Breathing Room | Back To Basics | Barefoot Contessa | Everyday Italian | Ciao America With Mario | Best Of Island Hideaways | | El Entertainment Special | | | | | Parkinson/ Koffee With Karan | | The Robinsons | Human Remains | The Simpsons | Oprah Prime Time |
| Star World | | | | | | Business Week Asia | Travel Asia/Miss World Southern Europe Vote For Me | One Tree Hill/Monk/Smallville (Series 2) | Miss World Asia Pacific Vote For Me | The Simpsons | Kumkum Ai 42/The Making Of Holiday On Ice Holiday On Ice Behind The Scene | Oprah Prime Time | | | | | | | | | | |
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| HBO | | The Perfect Husband: The Laci Peterson Story | | | Secondhand Lions | | | What A Girl Wants (6:15 PM) | | | | | The Big Preview: Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire | Executive Decision | | | | | | Fair Game (10:45PM) | | |
| Star Movies | | Die Hard | | | | First Knight (5:15 PM) | | | | | | Wrong Turn (7:35 PM) | | | | | Hidalgo | | | | The Touch (11:15PM) | |
| Cinema One | | | | Sigaw | | Jeanne Balot Nguyen Ka Long | | | | So Happy Together | | | | | | | Tony Mo | | | | | |
| EWTN | Defending Life | Angelus (3:15 PM) | EWTN Bookmark | Adventures In Odyssey | Faith Factory D | Rosary With Mother Angelica | EWTN Global Showcase | | Octava Dies | Fr John Corapi | | | Sunday Mass | | | | | | The World Over | Life Is Worth Living | Mother Angelica Live Classics | |

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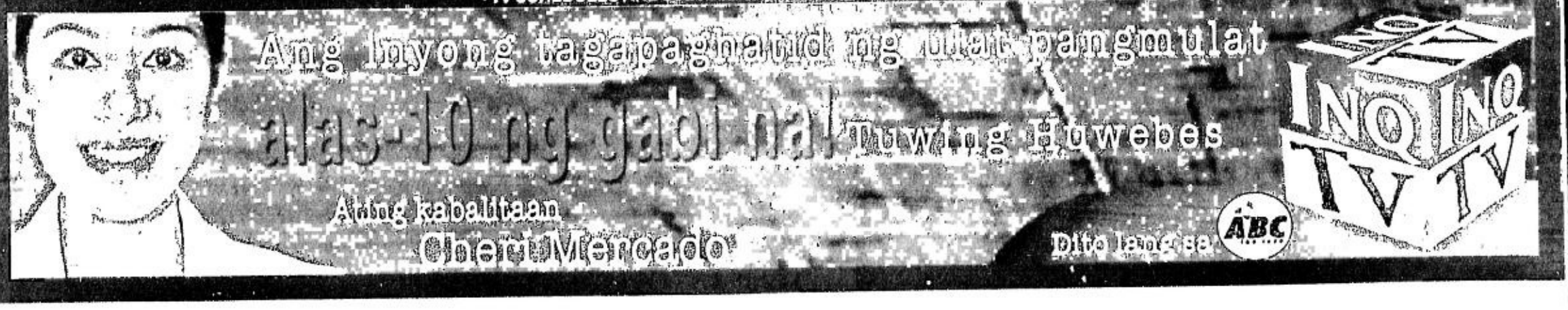



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# soars

# 's win

while holding it to a season low in points.

James added six rebounds and two assists in 26 foul-plagued minutes for Cleveland. He needs 10 points to become the youngest player in NBA history to reach 4,000 career points. James (20 years, 316 days) will likely hit the mark and pass Kobe Bryant (21 years, 216 days) when the Cavaliers play at Orlando on Sunday.

In Boston, Tim Duncan had 29 points and 12 rebounds to help San Antonio beat Boston for the 16th consecutive time.

In Portland, Oregon, Chauncey Billups had 21 points and 10 assists in Detroit's win over Portland.

The Pistons (6-0) are the only undefeated team in the NBA and are off to their best start since going 8-0 in 1988-89 en route to the first of consecutive NBA titles. *AP*

## ad

TIGER Woods is now staring at a one-stroke deficit. AFP

. Thomas Dougherty, ing with a

ngh had a ner back at

t to within e 191-yard rolled off *AP*

## unbeaten

ed Lindsay Davenport in Satur- semifinals. Davenport won the n group with a 2-1 record. efending champion Maria Sharapo- ost to Russian compatriot Nadia ova, 6-1, 6-2. She plays Mauresmo e semifinals. *AP*

## SPORTSWATCH

### Tahanan eyes title

TAHANAN and Don Enrique Heights dispute the 2005 Nokia intervillage golf crown tomorrow in an expected down-to-the-wire duel between two teams which finished tied in the first round of the 36-hole finals at the Canlubang complex. The two teams turned in identical 358 points under the Stableford scoring system after the first 18 holes of the grand championship at Cangolf's south course last week. But the Tahanan Village golf squad, led by Gil Domingo and Lito Abad, nipped Don Enrique Heights in the countback to grab the overall honors.

### Espiritu Cup set

THE FIRST Ambassador Edgardo B. Espiritu Golf Cup gets underway tomorrow with players from the government and private sectors as well as those from the Upsilonians na Pumapalo seeing action at the Manila Golf Club inside Forbes Park. Vice President Noli de Castro will hit the ceremonial drive at 8 a.m. to kick off the one-day invitational tournament held in honor of the former finance secretary and current Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United Kingdom, Ireland and Iceland. De Castro also heads the list of sponsors of the event.

### Lagon, Tan rule LGBA

SONNY Lagon of Laguna and Eugene Tan of Bicol emerged as this year's Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) Breeder of the Year. Lagon's Blue Blade San Lorenzo and Tan's Silver Buck piled up 15 point in three blockbuster derbies held at the Araneta Collseum. In a related development, LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz said that his group is throwing its all out support to the ongoing NFGB Bakbakan 9–stag derby also at Araneta. Eliminations in the 'Bakbakan' will resume tomorrow at Araneta Coliseum.

### RPN airs Fistorama

FISTORAMA features this afternoon a bruising eight-round fight between light-flyweights Bryan Vicera and Pit Anacaya. The bout was held last Tuesday at the Joe Cantada Boxing Arena in Bagumbayan, Taguig City. Fistorama is shown worldwide through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central TV. Fistorama, supported by Tanduay, PCSO and Mapecon is aired nationwide at 4 p.m, Sundays on RPN-9. Golf Power Plus, supported by PCSO, Tanduay and Samsung, airs at 3 p.m.

# RP, Malaysia riders battle on

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IT'S GOING TO BE A SHOWDOWN between Malaysian and Philippine riders in the World Cup show jumping regional finals to be held here next week.

And the prize will be a ticket to the World Cup finals in Kuala Lumpur.

"This is the first time that our country has the honor of hosting an equestrian event of such prestige," said Carissa Coscolluela, president of the World Cup Southeast Asian league finals.

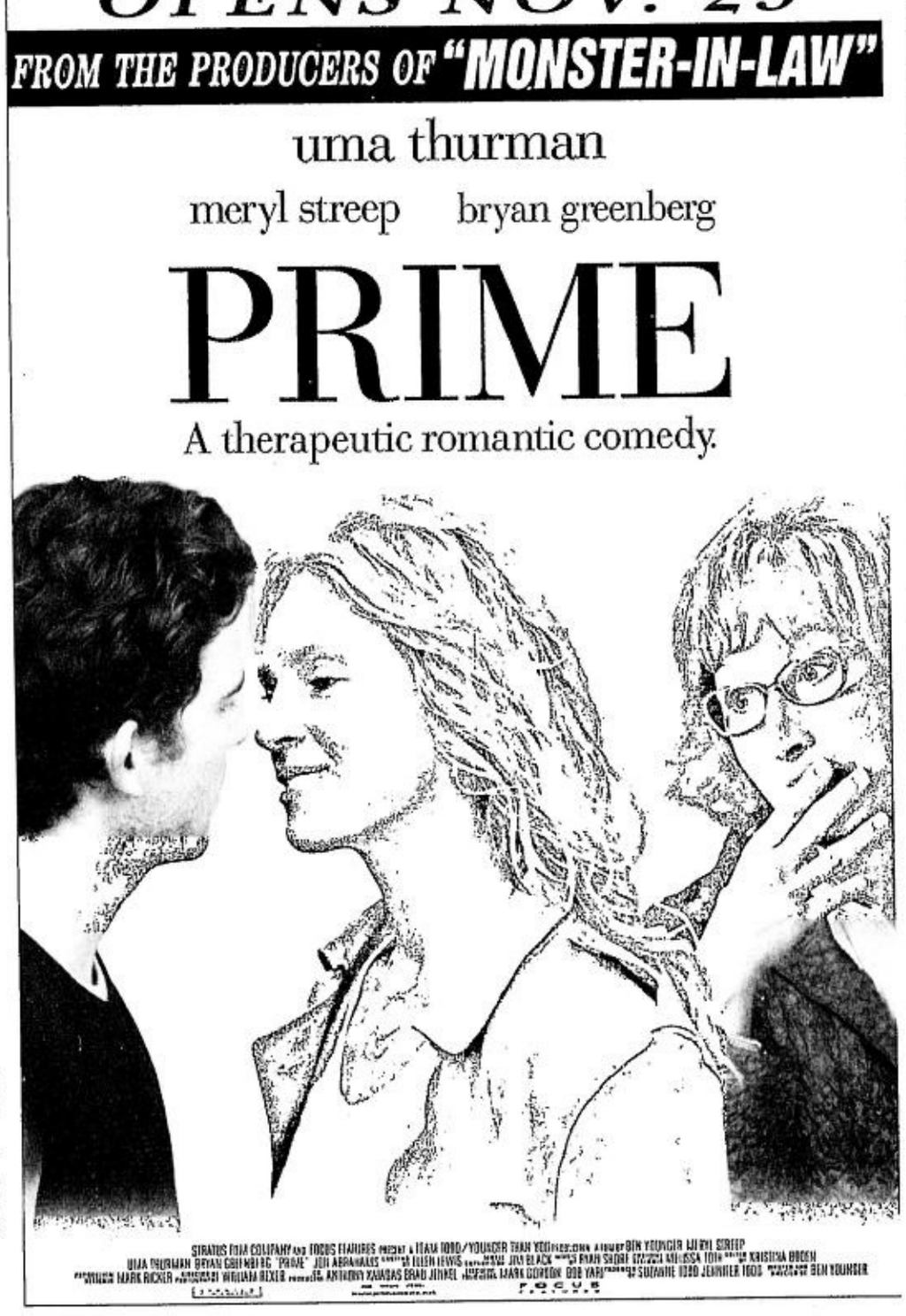
A total of 25 riders, representing the best of Southeast Asia, will compete in the event slated Nov. 18-20 at the Alabang Country Club.

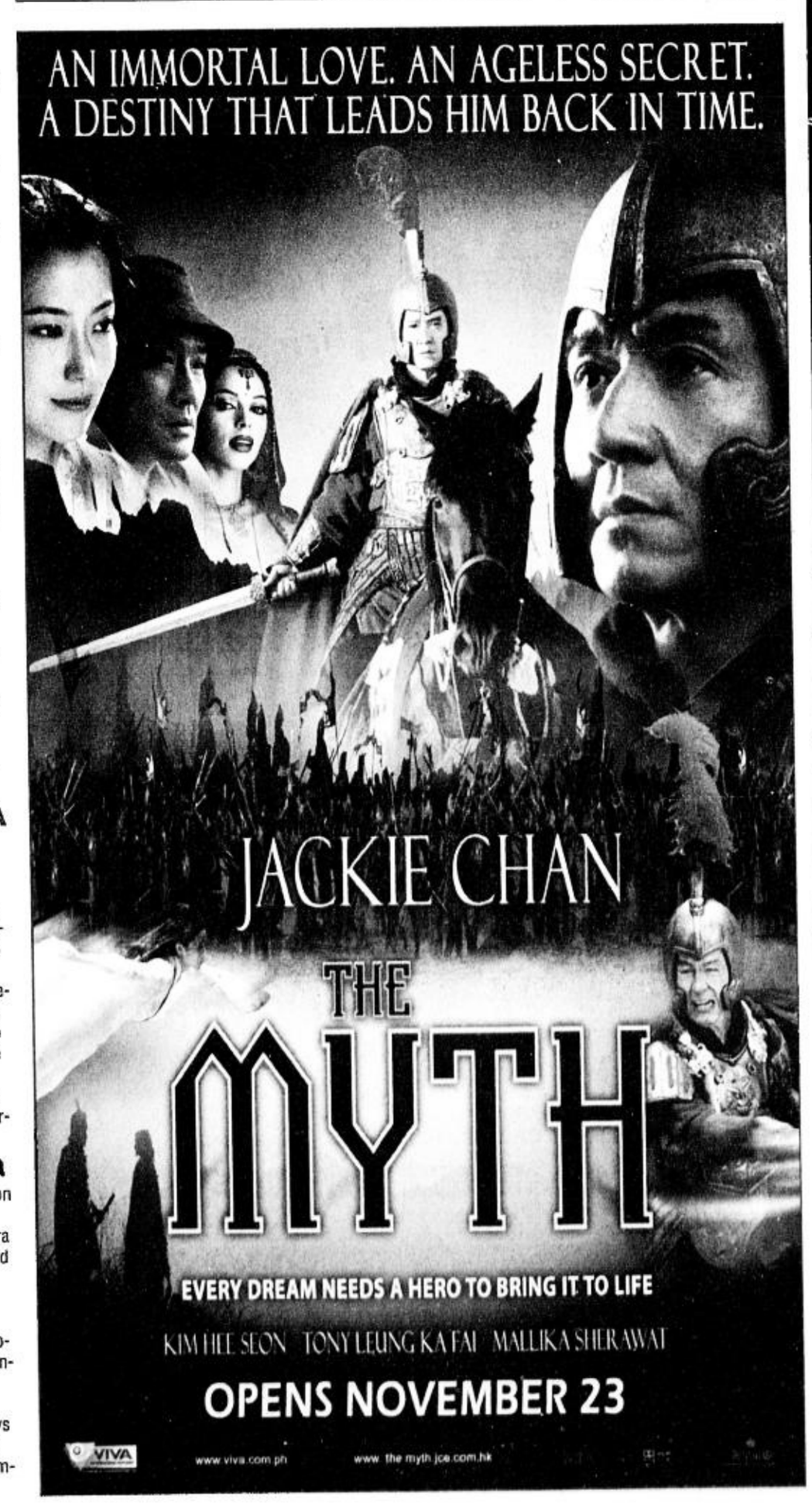
The Malaysian equestrian team, long considered as a regional heavyweight, arrived Thursday and is expected to challenge the Philippine team spearheaded by Asian Games gold medalist Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski and Toni Leviste.

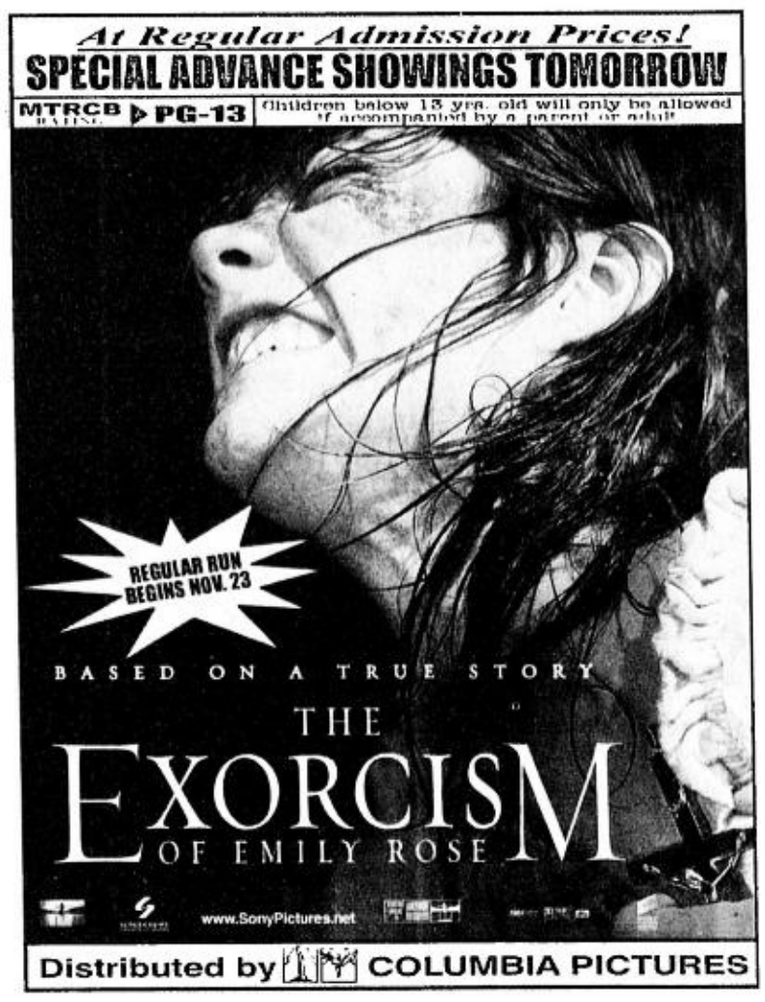
Leading the foreign challenge in the event sponsored by Del Monte, Duty Free, AirFreight 2100, Lifestyle Asia, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Solar Sports, Jewelmer, Quest Broadcasting, Gartime and HyPower Equine are four-time SEAG gold medalist Qabil Ambak, Asian Games bronze winner Quizer Ambak, World Games qualifier Syed Omar and rookie Leah Tan.

Helena Gabrielsson of Sweden currently holds the lead with 58 points, followed by Qabil Ambak with 56 and Hong Kong's Charlotte Morse with 45. Leviste, former World Cup SEA League champ, is at fourth with 44 points.

"Anything goes when it comes to the finals," said Leviste.



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| 5 (DOLBY) | RESERVED |
| 6 | RESERVED |

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# Real Spicy seeks revenge versus Wild Orchid today

By Edwin Villanueva
*Contributor*

**REAL SPICY GOT A SOUND BEATING FROM Wild Orchid the last time they met at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.**

The country's top 3-year-old galloper gets a chance to avenge that defeat against the fancied 3-year-old import when they clash again today, this time in the Speaker Jose de Venecia Cup.

Wild Orchid won over Real Spicy in style in their Oct. 16 duel in the Grand Derby, punctuating her six-length victory over 2,000 meters in a track-best 2:05 clocking.

That will be the same route they will negotiate in this afternoon's contest which likewise drew Absolute Charmer and Stowaway Lass, two imports who could pounce on every opportunity should Real Spicy engages Wild Orchid in an early speed duel.

"I think he's (Real Spicy) ready. *Nagsilbing batak yung huling takbo niya* (His last run served as a tuneup for him)," said veteran Antonio Alcasid Jr., who will be back atop the progeny of Real Quiet out of Spicy Tale.

Only a week ago, Alcasid guided Real Spicy to a leisurely win in the Vicente Puyat Cup 3-Year-Old Colt race of the 6th Philtobo Grand Championship Day, while Wild Orchid's handlers opted to rest her in preparation for today's keenly-awaited rematch.

Meanwhile, the special telecast of the Philtobo racefest will be shown tomorrow starting at 8 p.m., on Sports Plus cable channel, while racing fans can log on to www.philtobo.com for more of the highlights.

*"Itakbo niya lang yung itinakbo niya malaki ang pag-asang umulit* (If he runs t he way he did the last time around, he has a big chance of winning again)," said Fernando Raquel Jr., pilot of Wild Orchid, a daughter of High Yield out of Dove Orchid.

First placer in the race sponsored by the Congressional Spouses Foundation Inc. gets P600,000, with the second to fourth finishers receiving P225,000, P125,000 and P50,000, respectively.

Serving as backup events are the CSF Cup and the Aristeo "Putch" Puyat Cup.

**AT SLLP BY MR. 999**

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Race 2—1. Court General 2. Bullish Dream 3. Star Emblem 4. Bom's Bom's
Race 3—1. Real Queen 2. Cape Don
Race 4—1. Naughty 2. Long Hiter 3. Magicl Surf 4. Music Quest
Race 5—1. American Woman 2. Vickyval 3. Dream Cross
Race 6—1. Hazit Coming 2. Starry Night/Daldalera 3. Gorgeous Sand 4. Jay Nicole
Race 7—1. Real Spicy 2. Wild Orchid
Race 8—1. Ilocos Princess 2. Empire Trish 3. Princess Indy 4. Divine Right
Race 9—1. Sucessful Dream 2. Flying Jordan 3. Alexi's Magic 4. Formidable Ella 5. Honour Dance
Race 10—1. Stallone 2. U Are My Sunshine
Race 11—1. Lord of the Ring 2. Ravishing Raffy 3. Stratosphere 4. Prickly Heat 5. Patago
Race 12—1. Forest Lad 2. Beat D Ace 3. High Class 4. My Lucky Date
Race 13—1. Field Star 2. El Love Señora 3. Smiling Jaeda 4. Sweet Alyssa 5.. Smooth Strike 6. Open Sky

# Revtex riders target crown

REVTEX ROCKET Glenn Aguilar and Kenneth San Andres will try to formally snare the Asian Nations Cup for the Philippines on Sunday when the 5th and final leg of the FIM Asian Motocross Championships erupt in Manado, Indonesia.

Aguilar and San Andres, the present and future of Philippine motocross and Revtex's brightest stars, have performed well in the Asia-Pacific series. Their combined showing has put the Philippines ahead in the race for the Coupe Des Nations Asiatique or Asian Nations Cup—the award being bestowed to the best-performing motocross country in the region.

"We're doing this for our country," said Aguilar. "The honor of the Philippines is always our priority."

Providing support to Aguilar in the final leg will be San Andres, and together, they are raring to display the kind of skills that have made Filipinos among Asia's best riders. The group's Indonesian sojourn is made possible by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association.

Aguilar, the only Filipino to have captured an FIM Asia-Pacific crown, is also the series' leader among Asians, way ahead of Indonesian sensation Aep Dadang and reigning champion Tadazaku Ohtsuka of Japan.

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Manila JUST LIKE HEAVEN Nov. 25 • Cinema 1
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1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 11:40, 2:30, 5:20, 8:10, 11:00 GP
2 FLIGHT PLAN 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:50, 11:00 PG-13
3 FLIGHT PLAN 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50 PG-13
4 CRY WOLF R-13

SM MEGAMALL
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 DOMINO
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 FOUR BROTHERS
5 CRY WOLF
6 LORD OF WAR
7 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
8 WAITING
9 ISPIRITISTA
10 TRUMPETS: LITTLE MERMAID
11 DOOM
12 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
SM CITY STA MESA
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 FOUR BROTHERS
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 CRY WOLF
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 DEUCE BIGALOW
7 DOOM
8 WAITING
9 THE GHOST INSIDE
10 DOMINO
SM CITY BICUTAN
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 FOUR BROTHERS
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
SM VALENZUELA
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 FOUR BROTHERS
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 DOMINO
SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 DEUCE BIGALOW
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4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
5 FOUR BROTHERS
6 CRY WOLF
7 FLIGHTPLAN
8 ISPIRITISTA
9 DOOM
10 WAITING
11 MY SASSY GIRL
12 RESERVED
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2 ISPIRITISTA
3 CRY WOLF
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9 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
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1 FLIGHTPLAN
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4 WAITING
5 CRY WOLF
6 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
7 FOUR BROTHERS
8 LEGEND OF ZORRO
SM CITY MANILA
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
3 WAITING
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
5 DOMINO
6 FOUR BROTHERS
7 MY SASSY GIRL
8 DOOM
9 ISPIRITISTA
10 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
11 THE GHOST INSIDE
12 CRY WOLF
SM CINEMA ARANETA PLAZA
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 WAITING
4 DOOM
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 ISPIRITISTA

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LUZON
SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 MY SASSY GIRL
6 ISPIRITISTA
SM CITY BACOOR
1 WAITING
2 DOMINO
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 ISPIRITISTA
7 THE GHOST INSIDE
8 DOOM
SM CITY BACOOR
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 TRANSPORTER 2
3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 FLIGTHPLAN
SM CITY MARILAO
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 DOOM
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
SM MEGA MALL
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 FLIGHTPLAN
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
SM CITY MARINA
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 FLIGHTPLAN
SM CITY LUCENA
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
3 DOOM
4 ISPIRITISTA
SM CITY BATANGAS
1 INTO THE BLUE
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
SM City CEBU
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 FLIGHTPLAN
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
5 MY SASSY GIRL
6 UNDISCOVERED
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 DOOM
SM CITY ILOILO
1 LORD OF WAR
2 RESERVED
3 DOOM
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 FLIGHTPLAN
7 RESERVED
8 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
SM CITY DAVAO
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
5 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
6 DOOM
SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 BLADE OF THE ROSE
3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO

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|---|---|
| FLIGHT PLAN 12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40 | GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA FLIGHT PLAN 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00 |
| CRY WOLF 1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00 | DEUCE BIGALOW 2 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30 |
| ILUSYON 1:35 / 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:20 | THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30 |
| THE FOUR BROTHERS 1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00 | WAITING 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20 |
| ISPIRITISTA 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10 | THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00 |

ALI MALL CINEMAS

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 ISPIRITISTA 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00 | 4 ILUSYON 12:45 / 3:20 / 5:55 / 8:30 |
| 2 FLIGHT PLAN 1:10 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:10 | 5 CRY WOLF 1:05 / 3:30 / 5:55 / 8:20 |
| 3 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 12:00 / 2:45 / 5:30 / 8:15 | DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS |

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| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G1 GLORIETTA 1 | 1 CRY WOLF | 2 FLIGHTPLAN | 3 LEGEND OF ZORRO | 4 ISPIRITISTA |
| G4 GLORIETTA 4 | 1 WAITING | 2 FLIGHTPLAN | 3 THX FLIGHTPLAN GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| | 4 ISPIRITISTA | 5 CRY WOLF | 6 LEGEND OF ZORRO | 7 FOUR BROTHERS |
| GB1 GREENBELT 1 | 1 LEGEND OF ZORRO | | 2 FLIGHTPLAN | |
| GB3 GREENBELT 3 | 1 THX FLIGHTPLAN GUARANTEED SEATS | | 2 THX WAITING GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| | 3 FOUR BROTHERS GUARANTEED SEATS | 4 LEGEND OF ZORRO GUARANTEED SEATS | 5 FLIGHTPLAN GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER | 1 THX FLIGHTPLAN | | 2 LEGEND OF ZORRO | |
| | 3 WAITING | 4 CRY WOLF | 5 FOUR BROTHERS | |
| ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU | 1 FLIGHTPLAN | 2 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL | 3 UNDISCOVERED | 4 MY SASSY GIRL |

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5. ISPIRITISTA

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### GALLERIA 632-9116

1 FOUR BROTHERS• THX
12:20 2:45. 5:10 7:35 10:00

2 ILUSYON
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

4 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
1:25 4:10 6:55 9:40

5 FLIGHTPLAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 WAITING
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

7 DOMINO
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

8 CRY_WOLF
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

9 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
12:20 2:50 5:20 7:50 10:00

10 ISPIRITISTA
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

### ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 FLIGHTPLAN
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

2 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

3 DOMINO
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4 CRY_WOLF
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 ISPIRITISTA
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6 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50

7 WAITING 12:00 1:40 3:20
ILUSYON 5:20 7:40 10:00

### METRO EAST 882-8193 / 882-8199

1 FOUR BROTHERS
12:35 3:00 5:25 8:00

2 ISPIRITISTA
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

3 WAITING
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4 DOMINO
12:20 3:15 6:10 9:05

5 CRY_WOLF
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6 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
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7 FLIGHTPLAN
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

8 ILUSYON
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

### NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3228-30

1 DOOM
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
4 FLIGHTPLAN
5 WAITING

### CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575 PIONEER 687-5378

1 A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
3 CRY_WOLF
4 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY

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2 ISPIRITISTA
3 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2

1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
4 INTO THE BLUE

### DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332 ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
4 ISPIRITISTA

1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 WALLACE AND GROMIT
4 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2

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1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 GHOST INSIDE
3 MY SASSY GIRL
4 FLIGHTPLAN
5 ISPIRITISTA

1 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 MY SASSY GIRL
5 THE ADV. OF SHARKBOY & LAVAGIRL
6 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2

### BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459 ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 DOOM
2 FLIGHTPLAN
3 THE ADV. OF SHARKBOY & LAVAGIRL
4 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
5 INTO THE BLUE
6 MASAHISTA

1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 THE ADV. OF SHARKBOY & LAVAGIRL
3 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
4 DOOM

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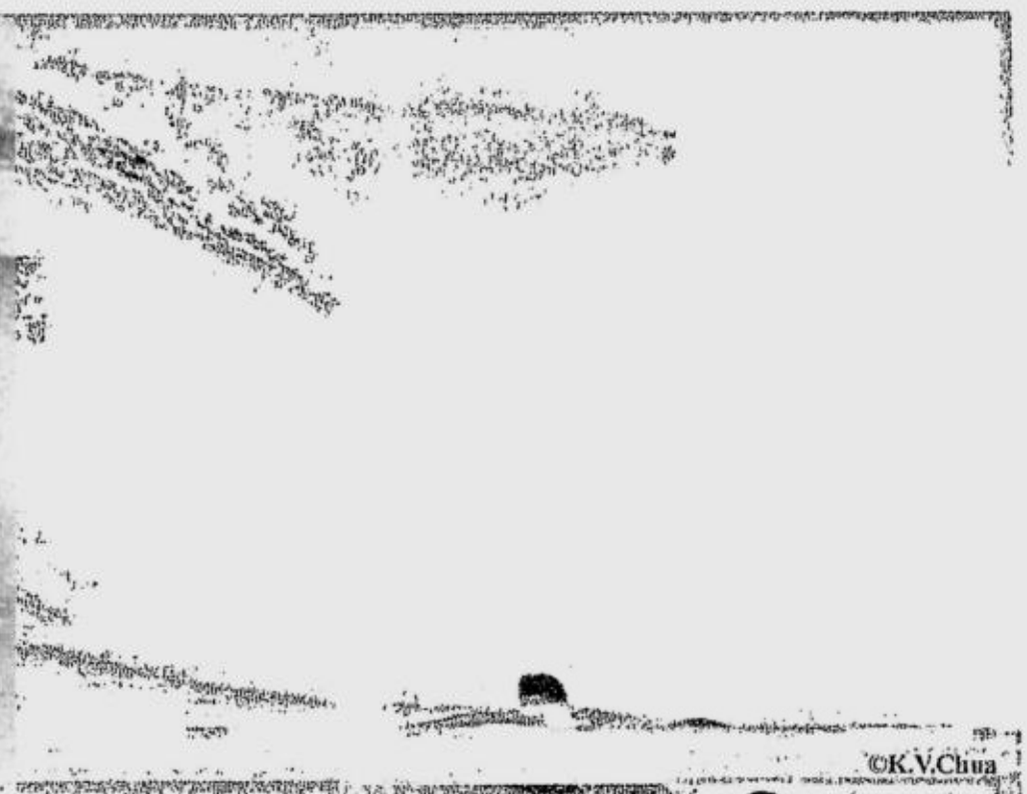
# SMART Philippine Surfing Circuit 2005




## SURF THE PHILIPPINES!

During last years' Siargao Surfing event, Congressman Pichay promised to create a unifying body for local surfing. This year that promise has come to fruition with the creation of the Philippine Surfing Federation (PSF), which is aimed to enhance the image of the country's surfing industry by having organized surfing communities, increasing environmental accountability and establishing local tourism awareness geared towards surfing to boost tourism arrivals.

True to their word, the PSF has launched the first ever surf circuit in the country. The circuit, which began in February of 2005, has traveled throughout the country's choice surf spots and continues to gain momentum.

Ceremonial Breaking of the Surfboard to formally open the 7th Siargao National Surfing Cup (L-R): PSF Chairman Cong. Pichay, General Luna Mayor Cecilia Rusillon, Surigao del Norte Vice-Governor Rodolfo Navarro and PSF Board Member Atty. Jaime Rusillon

3rd Governor Leandro B. Verceles Jr. Surfing Cup, Puraran, Baras, Catanduanes (L-R): PSF Chairman Cong. Pichay, Catanduanes Gov. Verceles, Catanduanes Vice-Gov. Vincent Villaluna, Baras Mayor Jose Teves Jr. and Catanduanes Board Member Shirley Abundo

Eastern Samar Surfing Crown Awarding Ceremony (L-R) PSF Secretary General Zeny Pallugna, Guiuan Mayor Annalisa Kwan, Open Division Champion Dionisio "Dodo" Espejon of Surigao, PSF Contest Director Olin Duaso and PSF Marketing Coordinator Mhay Rondael

PSF Chairman Congressman Pichay delivers speech at the opening of the 7th Siargao National Surfing Cup on September 24, 2005

9th Aurora Surfing Cup Wahine Division Winners (L-R) Cong Juan Edgardo "Sonny" Angara, Nikkie Blancada of Siargao (2nd place), Cong. Pichay, Marcel Alcala of Siargao (Champion), Gov. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, Dany Valdez of La Union (3rd place)

None of these events would have materialized without the full support of the PSF Chairman Congressman Prospero "Butch" Pichay, Jr. of Surigao del Sur and his Board Members, Cong. Marcelino Libanan of Eastern Samar, Governor Bellaflor Angara-Castillo of Aurora Province, Atty. Franscisco Matugas of Surigao del Norte, Atty. Jaime Rusillon of Siargao Island and the assistance of the provincial and local government units of the different surfing destinations.

On board as well to lend their support have been Smart Communications, Duty Free Philippines, Asian Spirit Airline, San Miguel Corporation and other companies that have extended their assistance in making the surf circuit a success. Also working behind the scenes is the PSF team of volunteers headed by its Managing Director Philip Pichay Jr, Contest Director Olin Duaso, Secretary General Zeny Pallugna and Marketing Coordinator Mhay Rondael who have invested their time and expertise to ensure that events sailed smoothly.

Congressman Pichay said that with the fiscal crisis this country faces, the best solution in raising revenue is to focus on tourism. There are an estimated 15 million surfers worldwide. With the creation of the PSF, he hopes to tap even three percent of that figure and encourage them to visit the various surfing destinations in the country. These surfers can greatly contribute to the national government's target of attaining 5 million tourists by 2010. He further elaborates that this goal can be surpassed with the construction of tourism infrastructure at par with international standards.

The Philippine Surfing Federation invites surfers, surf enthusiasts, non-surfers, and beach lovers, to be part of the upcoming legs of the Philippine Surfing Circuit 2005.

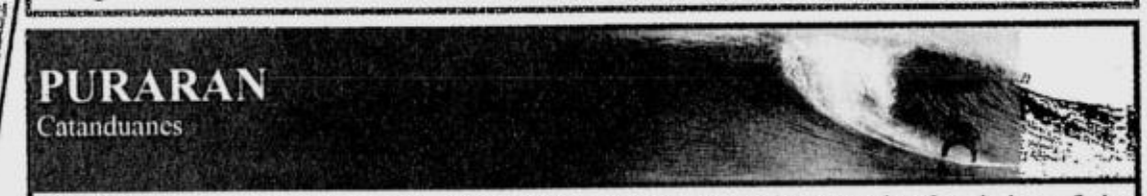
If you have queries or you need more details on this event, you may call or text +639157825043 (Zeny) or +639172085317 (Mhay) or send an e-mail to **psftour@gmail.com**. You can visit the PSF blog at **http://surfpinoy.blogspot.com**.

**Baler, Aurora** known as one of the first surf communities in the country was its first stop. Against the rugged landscape of the Sierra Madre mountain range, the best Filipino surfers tested themselves against the waves (and jagged bottom) of Cementos Reef.

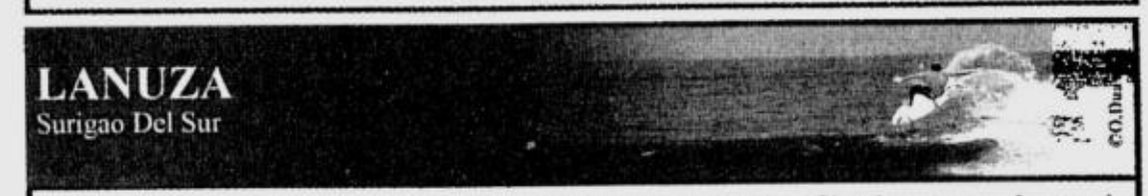
The circuit took a short hiatus and then picked up again in April with a special **All Women's Competition** held at the famous Cloud 9 break of Siargao. The presence of more bikinis than boardshorts in the line-up was a groundbreaking event in a mostly male-dominated sport. It heralded the beginning of a new chapter in the local surf scene as more women are exposed to surfing and its allure.

Late September brought the tour back to now familiar island of **Siargao**. A feeling of comradeship permeated the event as both surfers and spectators alike convened once again for the **7th Siargao National Surfing Cup**. The much-photographed and even more-surfed breaks on the island did not disappoint, as a myriad of surfers from all over the Philippines charged the waves in the hopes of snaring the top spot.

From there, the circuit moved on towards **Eastern Samar** for the first ever Eastern Samar Surfing Crown. The unfamiliar territory proved the perfect spot to launch Eastern Samar's debut into the surf circuit as it drew crowds from nearby towns. The wave conditions only highlighted the amazing skill of our local surfers as they carved and floated on the waves of Calicoan island. Free surf clinics held by the Philippine Surf Federation and volunteer Filipino surfers further strengthened the camaraderie that the tour aims to foster.

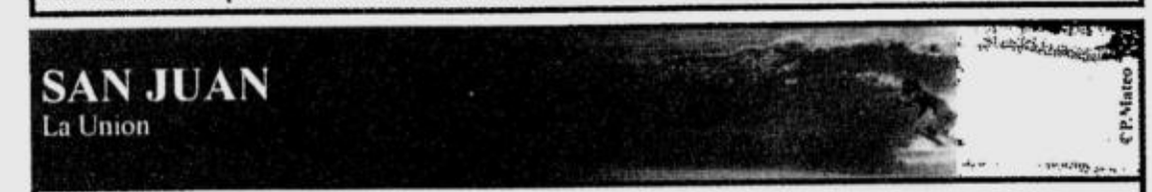



The **3rd Governor Leandro B. Verceles Jr. Surfing Cup** became the fourth leg of the Philippine Surfing Circuit pitted the surfers (28 participants in the Men's Open division and 15 Junior surfers) against the raw power of the heavy waves of the **Majestics** in **Catanduanes.** In between heats, the surfers took their energy to the beach, engaging in impromptu games of beach volleyball and the classic childhood game of patintero.




Now the Philippine Surfing Federation takes the Philippine Surfing Circuit on tour to Lanuza in **Surigao del Sur**. The break, known as **Doot Poktoy**, has been host to shortboard surfing competitions twice before and is fast becoming a favorite among surfers. The town will also be unveiling their **First International Longboarding** event and their **First Skimboard Open**. Both debut events will be held in Doot Poktoy as well.

All Lanuza competitions will be held between November 14 to 20, 2005.




From there, the tour pulls into **San Juan, La Union,** a favored spot of visiting Manila surfers, from December 15 to 18, 2005. La Union will be the last stop in the year-long circuit. The finale of the circuit will culminate with the revelation of who among the local surfers on tour has ranked first for the year.

**The Philippine Surfing Circuit 2005 is organized by the PSF in cooperation with the:**
**Provincial Government Units of Aurora, Surigao del Norte, Eastern Samar, Catanduanes, Surigao del Sur and La Union and the Local Government Units of Baler, General Luna, Guiuan, Baras, Lanuza and San Juan**
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Text by Kaye Gozun Photos by Mark Alden Kathy V Chua Olin Duaso and Pat Mateo Layout by Kathy V Chua

We are inviting all surfers to compete in the

# LANUZA SURFING FESTIVAL

**14 - 20 November 2005**

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

# Were Global band tilt results rigged?

By Pocholo Concepcion
*Contributor*

ORGANIZERS OF THE RECENTLY CONcluded Global Battle of the Bands Philippines have been pelted with protests over the decision to hand the trophy to the band Authority, fronted by Juan Miguel Salvador, former leader of Rage.

Internet postings recount a walkout during the finals on Oct. 29 at the Aliw Theater, and allege "fixed" results.

Wilfredo Cacumbal, GBOB Philippines representative, is said to have received death threats. Cacumbal is obviously upset. He told INQUIRER Entertainment: "It is very disconcerting and disrespectful that not one [of these protesters consider] that there were three foreign judges from GBOB Europe. These judges' most compelling input was the winnability of the Philippine entry in the world finals [in London, Dec. 7]. For anyone to claim that he knows more than the judges ... is incredible!"

Tickets to the Philippine finals were reportedly sold out within two hours. The 3,000-capacity theater was packed.

Ten finalist-bands competed for the right to represent the country in London, where other winners from 26 countries will be showcased. Top prize is US$100,000.

Punk rock band Sandwich, from Quezon City, was second runner-up, followed by heavy metal band Day 7, from Davao.

## Better than 'Idol'

The winning group was formed only last April, but consists of experienced musicians. Salvador takes lead vocals; Bong de la Cruz and Venjie Verano, guitars; Alvin Soriano, bass; Austin Farinas, drums; Raymond Leong, keyboards; and Cheryl Sugui, back-up vocals.

Other finalists were Eyescream, Grupo Mari Teves, Haganas, Jeepney Joyride, Naked Tongue, Punch Nine and Rewind.

The top 10 were chosen from over 600 bands that participated in the three-month search. (RPN 9 will air the GBOB Philippines recap from Nov. 14 to 18, 5:30 p.m.)

Tore Lande, 53, Norwegian founder of GBOB, maintains that the search is committed to showcasing real talent. "GBOB is the opposite of 'American Idol,'" says Lande, who arrived in Manila weeks before the Philippine finals. "'American Idol' is just karaoke singing."

GBOB is in its second year. Its first winner was Second, an obscure band from Spain which has since received first-rate attention, plus recording and endorsement deals.

## Close Encounters with Constantine

THE "AMERICAN IDOL" finalist whose elimination broke hearts around the world is visiting Manila next week. Where to catch up with Constantine Maroulis? *Turn to page A2-2.*

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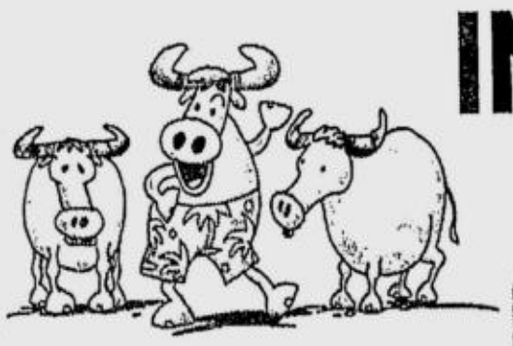

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

JOB Market

ROSA Rosal with Tony Santos Sr. in "Biyaya"

# New homes for

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

EVER SINCE LVN'S FILM PROCESSING AND laboratory assets were sold last July, the fate of its movie collection and museum had been the subject of much speculation.

Last Thursday, Ching L. Escaler—LVN vice president and treasurer and granddaughter of studio founder Narcisa "Doña Sisang" de Leon—formally announced that LVN was transferring the bulk of its collection to the ABS-CBN Archives for the next 25 years.

Escaler told Inquirer Entertainment that, aside from storage, ABS-CBN would have "cable and online rights" to 102 titles, including "Biyaya ng Lupa," "Anak Dalita," "Badjao," "Malvarosa," "Kundiman ng Lahi" and "Ibong Adarna."

To celebrate the agreement, "Biyaya ng Lupa," 1959 Famas Picture, was previewed at ABS-CBN last Thursday. It will debut this month on channel Cinema One's "Sunday Cine Premiere."

"We'll give these landm tance," said Ronald Arguel "Apart from award winners, Blanca-Nestor de Villa m Na.'"

"Also, Togo-Pugo comed tana movies," said Mary Archives manager. "We ha 1939's 'Giliw Ko,' with Fern del Sol. It featured the firs Mona Lisa, wearing a bathi

## State of the art

Escaler said ABS-CBN's ties sealed the deal. "We h ronmental conditions; the and humidity needed to pr De Pilar noted.

Archiving is important, cause "films serve as recor showcase our culture."

Credit should go to he

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# ABS-CBN suspends 2 of its own talents

By Marinel R. Cruz

TWO ABS-CBN talents were slapped with a 30-day suspension by the network for wearing skimpy outfits that exposed their breasts during a dance number in the noontime variety show "Asap '05."

The suspension of artists Cherry Lou and Gem Ramos was prompted by a complaint made by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) about the program's Nov. 6 episode.

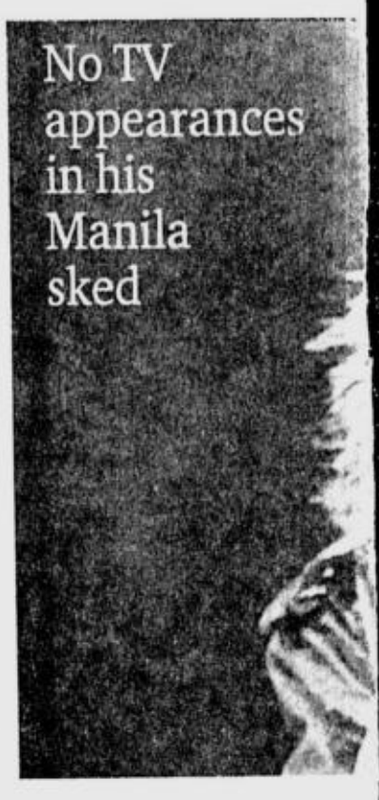
In a memorandum sent to ABS-CBN on Monday, MTRCB Chair Marissa Laguardia said Cherry Lou wore a "very sexy/skimpy outfit" and that Ramos exposed one breast while performing.

"We wish to reiterate our regret in connection with the incident," said Deo Endrinal, vice president for Talk, Reality and Variety, in a letter to the MTRCB. "We wish to assure the Board that we shall ... take necessary measures to prevent a repeat of the incident."

Endrinal added: "We will continue to strive, bearing in mind our responsibility to our viewers, to produce the quality programming that has been expected of ABS-CBN."

Another Kapamilya show, "Magandang Umaga, Pilipinas" received a warning from the MTRCB on Monday for airing a video featuring fashion models wearing clothes "with visible/clear breasts."

On Tuesday, "MUP" expressed regret for the "inadvertent showing of nipples" by contestants for Miss Playboy Latino on the show's "Kakaibang Balita" segment.




# Chartin

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE ONLY WAY HIS FILIPINO fans can see the wildly popular "American Idol" finalist Constantine Maroulis when he visits Manila next week is to turn up at the Ayala Malls.

"There are no TV appearances in his itinerary. I suggest fans go straight to the malls and see him in the flesh," said Cathy Benguzon, ad and promo head of Ayala Land, sponsor of Constantine's five-day RP tour.

The charismatic rocker is scheduled to arrive tomorrow from the United States on board a Philippine Airlines flight.

A meet-and-greet with the local press in Makati City is set in the same afternoon. At 5 p.m., Constantine will lead Ayala Center's Tree-lighting Ceremony at the Greenbelt Park.

He is also here to promote the

"PRIME"

A LIGHT ROMANTIC-COMEDY THAT PUTS EVERYONE IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME.

Uma Thurman and Bryan Greenberg stars as the two lovers coping up with their modern-day romance in the romantic-comedy movie "PRIME"

It gives **Meryl Streep** a role that eases her transition from elitist dramatic actress to ribald character actress. It finds **Uma Thurman** in full-scale glamour mode without being used as mere decoration. And for two relative newcomers, director and screenwriter Ben Younger and co-star **Bryan Greenberg**, it provides a promising and polished showcase.

But most important is what it provides the audience: A film that's often a riot, with laughter growing out of identifiable human behavior. Unlike many contemporary romantic comedies, it even ends with a warm, satisfying glow. **PRIME** also shows that Manhattan itself still glows, four years after 9-11.

**Meryl Streep** plays *Dr. Lisa Metzger*, a therapist so full of benevolent Jewish wisdom you expect her to greet patients with a bowl of chicken soup. One of her clients, sophisticated 37-year-old divorcee **Rafi** (*Uma Thurman*), is making great strides.

In limbo since her divorce, Rafi has met, dated and bedded 23-year-old painter **David** (*Bryan Greenberg*). Sweet-natured David has an ingratiating mixture of soulfulness and playfulness. But he's also a bit of an underachiever who still lives with his grandparents. Nevertheless, as Rafi tells Lisa in detail, they have fantastic sex. Lisa is delighted with Rafi's new life and professes no dismay at the new couple's differences in age and backgrounds. Until she makes what she considers a shocking discovery. Rafi's David is Lisa's son!

The movie rests happily on Lisa, Rafi and David, and all three major players enjoy a strong rapport. The three lead roles are written with sensitivity and humor. Meryl Streep is hilarious and endearing in her discomfort. Uma Thurman is radiantly vulnerable yet confident. And Bryan Greenberg makes all of David's sometimes conflicting facets seem genuine and appealing.

ADVT. [Hollywood Reporter]

# What Aga's

By Jocelyn Valle
*Contributor*

AGA MUHLACH SAID HE wanted his twin kids Andres and Atasha to continue the legacy of "MaAGA ang Pasko sa Jollibee."

The actor has spearheaded the fast-food chain's annual Christmas project for the underprivileged for 11 years now.

"Maybe they'll be ready in 20 years," Aga nodded. "It's nice to pass on to your children something truly worthwhile and meaningful. They'll have a heart for helping people."

Aside from Andres and Atasha—his kids with Charlene Gonzales—who turned 4 last week, Aga has a son, Luigi, now a teenager, with actress-TV host Janice de Belen. The actor considers "MaAGA" as "another baby."

## Target

At least 700,000 children in poor communities have received books and toys from "MaAGA." This year's goal, according to Inez Reyes, Jollibee vice president for Marketing, is to gather 300,000 such gifts, for a total of one million beneficiaries.

Songwriter Trina Belamide was commissioned to compose a new theme, "Maligaya at Masaya ang Pasko." The music video will be airing soon on television, said Reyes.

COMING SOON

No. 1 Top Grossing Korean Romantic Comedy for 2004

Starring Kim Raewon (Attic Cat) & Moon Geunyoung (Endless Love)

Theme Song "My Love" by Mocha under XAX Records available at leading records outlets

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# LVN archives

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s of our history and

brother filmmaker Mike de Leon, said Escaler. " He made the most of a modest budget, exploring various ways to preserve films. Some movies were recorded with a Betacam."

While the LVN film collection will be housed in the ABS-CBN Archives, the museum will be moved to the UP Film Institute by December.

"Dean Nick Tiongson welcomed us," Escaler said. "It's only temporary, though."

Escaler hopes to find a permanent home for the museum. "I promised the curator, Bernard Fernandez, before he died that I'd take care of it."

One possible venue: Her father Manny de Leon's home in New Manila, built by her grandmother Doña Sisang in 1931.

"Since my father passed away at age 89 last February, we've been renovating the home," she said. "We'll display memorabilia there, to highlight the ancestral home's historical and personal relationship to LVN's cultural heritage."

# ng Constantine

album "Killer Queen: A Tribute to Queen," under the Sony BMG label, where he sings "Bohemian Rhapsody" as one of the featured artists.

Tuesday will be Constantine's rehearsal day. The names of the musicians he will perform with have not been disclosed.

The first in the series titled "Constantine Maroulis Live at Ayala Malls" will be at the Greenbelt Park of the Ayala Center in Makati City on Wednesday, 8 p.m.

### Airport security

On Thursday at 7 p.m., he will be at the Alabang Town Center. The next day, Nov. 18, he will fly to Cebu to perform at the Ayala Mall at the Cebu Business District.

Just like what happened when Pinoy "American Idol (2004)" finalist Jasmine Trias first visited the country in October last year, fans are expected to troop to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport to get a glimpse of their idol.

Bengzon said her group had made arrangements with airport officials to avoid a repeat of the incident that involved Jasmine. Because of the large crowd at the airport, the petite singer from Hawaii got separated from her father, Rudy, on the way to the exits.

"Constantine will arrive really early," explained Bengzon. "He may not be ready to face his fans at that time. We're being very careful. We don't want people to get hurt."

Before joining "American Idol," Constantine was the leader of a rock band in New York called Pray for the Soul of Betty.

Although Carrie Underwood emerged as this year's "American Idol," followed closely by another rocker, Bo Bice, Constantine is one of the most popular to emerge from the batch.

# twins will likely inherit

With Aga in the music video are Sarah Geronimo, Mark Bautista and Donna Cruz, likewise endorsers of the food chain.

"I'm so happy that they're now part of this project now," Aga said. "I can't expect them to attend all the activities, but doing this record and video is more than enough support."

Not one of the four celebrities asked for a talent fee, Reyes noted.

He will never claim credit for the success of "MaAGA," the actor said. "It's mostly Jollibee regulars who bring the gifts and toys. *'Yan ang* Pinoy. They help each other during hard times. This is what should be highlighted, *hindi pulitika*."

**AGA lights it up.** RODEL ROTONI

## FEEDBACK

**From Liah of Sta. Mesa, Manila (via e-mail), for ex-PBB housemate Sam Milby:**

You killing me w/ your smily ... I love you, Sam! I'm the one of your pans since you become Big Brother housemate.

**From Elizabeth Ramos, Brussels, (via e-mail)** on the screening of "Panaghoy sa Suba" at the International Festival of Independent Films:

Organizers [printed or gave away] so many tickets, they couldn't accommodate everybody. Maybe next time they should get a bigger venue.


# Super Sikat ang Sunday sa QTV Channel 11!

| | SUNDAY |
|---|---|
| 8:00 AM | PIRLIMPIMPIM |
| 9:00 AM | HEIDI |
| 9:30 AM | JACKIE AND JILL |
| 10:00 AM | GANDANG RICKY REYES |
| 11:00 AM | RX MEN |
| 12:00 NN | AT YOUR SERVICE STAR POWER |
| 1:00 PM | GININTUANG TELON |
| 3:00 PM | BAYWALK |
| 4:00 PM | JOAN OF ARCADIA |
| 5:00 PM | GINANG FASHIONISTA |
| 6:00 PM | ANG PINAKA... |
| 7:00 PM | POP STAR KIDS |
| 8:00 PM | MAY TRABAHO KA |
| 9:00 PM | SUNDAY SUPER SINE |
| 11:00 PM | MINT (MUSIC INTERACTIVE) |

Mga mare, dahil ikaw at ang iyong pamilya ay sikat sa amin, quality shows ang para sa inyo mula sa QTV Channel 11! Espesyal lalo ang Linggo dahil sa back-to-back na pasikatan sa Pop Star Kids at *May Trabaho Ka*. Ang mga bulilit ay bibirit nang tulad ni Kyla. Ang karapat-dapat ay mabibigyan ng trabaho nina Mariz Umali at Paolo Abrera.

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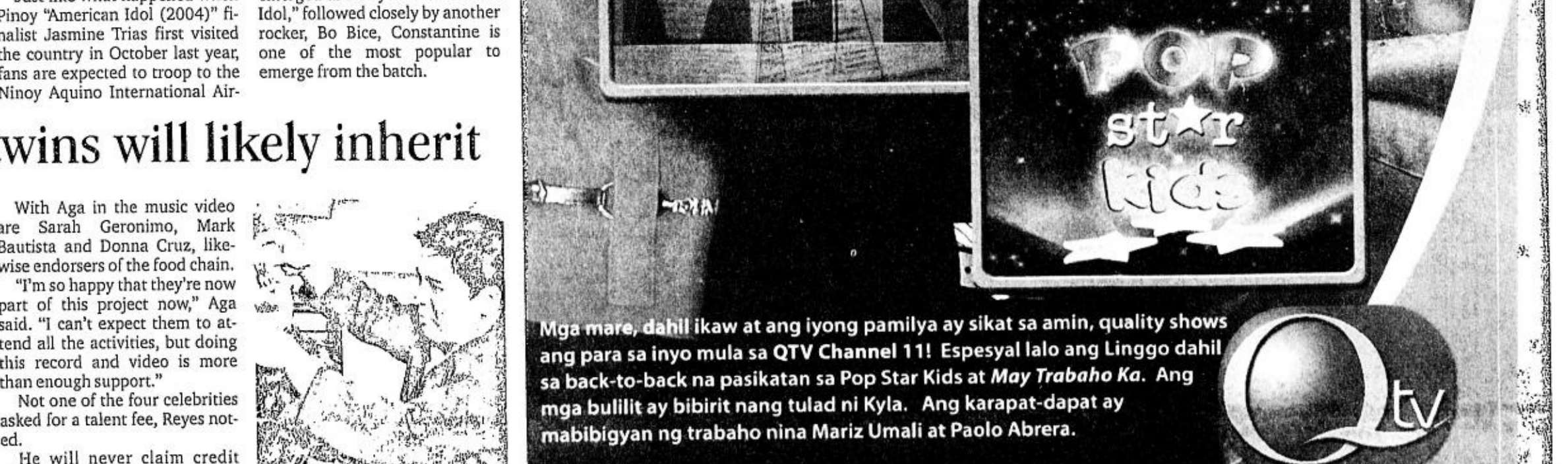



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BRAD Pitt

ANGELINA Jolie

OPRAH Winfrey

# 32nd People's Choice nominations

LOS ANGELES—ANGELINA JOLIE, BRAD PITT and Oprah Winfrey are among those nominated for the 32nd annual People's Choice Awards.

The public can help choose the winners online at www.pcavote.com. The show will broadcast live from the Shrine Auditorium on Jan. 10. Internet research firm Knowledge Networks earlier called on pop culture fans to help determine the nominees. The results:

**Female Movie Star:** Sandra Bullock, Angelina Jolie, Nicole Kidman.

**Male Movie Star:** Nicolas Cage, Johnny Depp, Samuel L. Jackson.

**Leading Lady:** Cameron Diaz, Reese Witherspoon, Renee Zellwegger.

**Leading Man:** Jamie Foxx, Brad Pitt, Adam Sandler.

**Female Action Star:** Jennifer Garner, Angelina Jolie, Catherine Zeta-Jones.

**Male Action Star:** Matthew McConaughey, Brad Pitt, The Rock.

**On-Screen Match-Up:** Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt in "Mr. and Mrs. Smith;" Chris Rock and Adam Sandler in "The Longest Yard;" Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson in "Wedding Crashers."

**Female Performer:** Kelly Clarkson, Faith Hill, Gwen Stefani.

**Male Performer:** Toby Keith, Tim McGraw, Usher.

**Group:** Black Eyed Peas, Destiny's Child, Green Day.

**TV Comedy:** "Everybody Loves Raymond," "That '70s Show," "The Simpsons."

**TV Drama:** "CSI" "Desperate Housewives," "Law & Order."

**Reality Show Competition:** "American Idol," "Fear Factor," "Survivor."

**Late-Night Talk Show Host:** Jay Leno, David Letterman, Conan O'Brien.

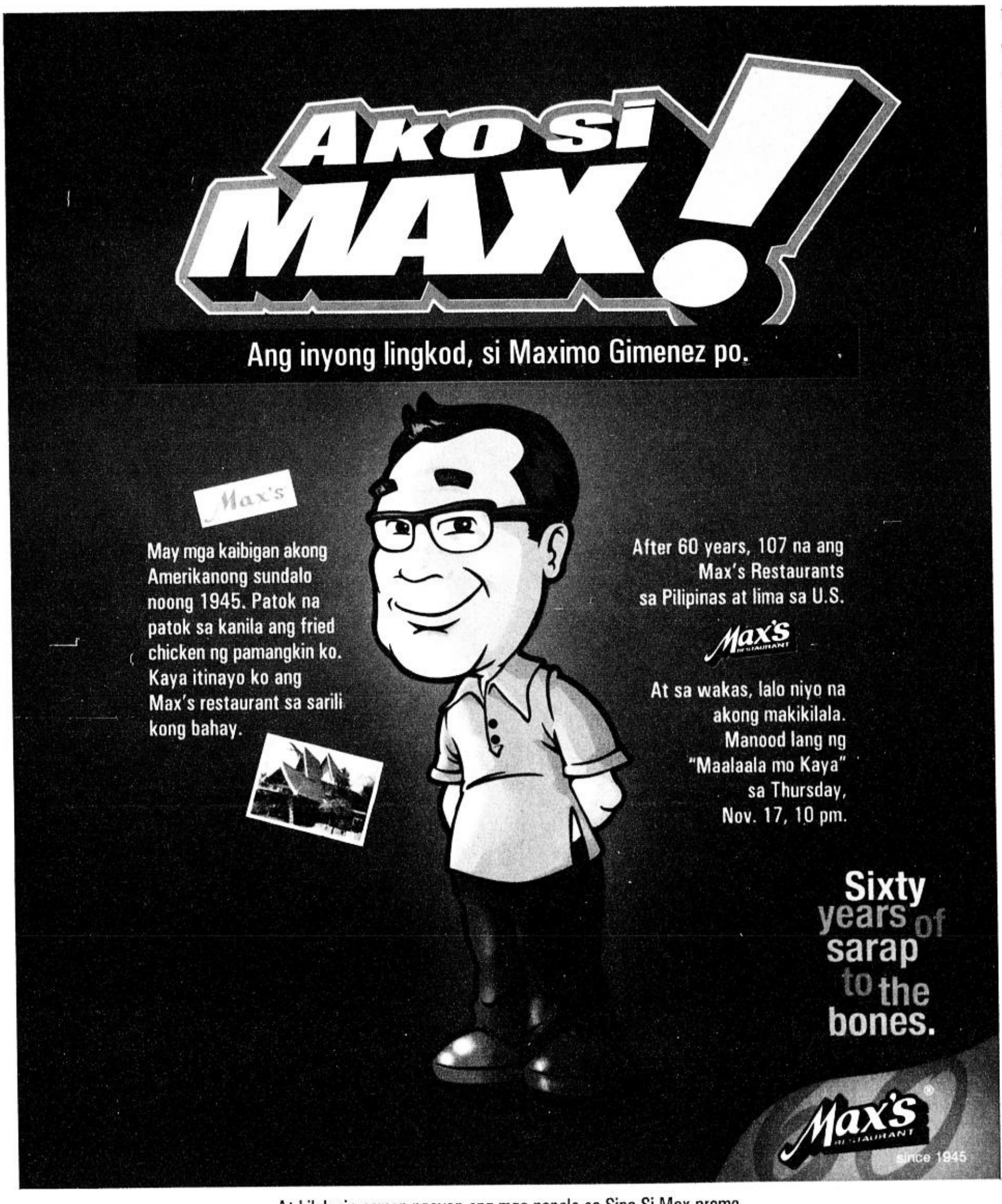
**Daytime Talk Show Host:** Ellen DeGeneres, Regis Philbin & Kelly Ripa, Oprah Winfrey.

**Female TV Star:** Jennifer Garner, Teri Hatcher, Jennifer Love Hewitt.

**Male TV Star:** Ray Romano, Charlie Sheen, Kiefer Sutherland.

**Funny Female Star:** Drew Barrymore, Ellen DeGeneres, Queen Latifah.

**Funny Male Star:** Chris Rock, Adam Sandler, Will Smith.




At kilalanin naman ngayon ang mga nanalo sa Sino Si Max promo.

**Grand Prize Winner ng Php 1 MILLION in cash – Edwin Pardo Jr., 1961 Old Cabalan, Olongapo City**

**60 Winners of IPOD Shuffles**

1. Leo Vigildoc Valerio
2. Nicole Diane Salvendra
3. Arvin Abad
4. Ma. Corah Dioquino
5. Eden Ofar
6. Mibeth Igar
7. Nikka Valiente
8. Helen Barcelona
9. Ray Malic Gato
10. Rafael Alfonso Acuña
11. Prodoly Corpuz
12. Maribel Alvarez
13. Dan Roducto
14. Karen Pacheco
15. Kathleen Ramos
16. Andrew Go
17. Mary Rose Lucas
18. Paulo Galgo
19. Zendy Yumul
20. Edwin De Vera
21. Ma. Luisa Baleva
22. Leo Victorino
23. Marizel Bayer
24. Josephine Mendoza
25. Bernadette Palacay
26. Marvin Zarzuela
27. Ma. Vicenta Rio
28. Roman Geraldez
29. Cristino Dulona
30. Cora Del Rosario
31. Marrol Cual
32. Maria Cecilia Bernabe
33. Van Owen Pelayo
34. Eric Espino
35. Herminia Aguirre
36. Nelin Cabahug
37. Aina Remalante
38. Josephine Liquiran
39. Cynthia Tiangco Balite
40. Helen Intotano
41. Alan Aguinaldo
42. Irene Tan
43. Mary Ann Inabaya
44. Evelyn Coloma
45. Samuel Diaz Tria
46. Joel Benitez
47. Joey Cesa
48. Ma. Teresa Gile
49. Marlon Teodosio
50. Josephine dela Cruz
51. Schaira Mudag
52. Resureccion Caperas
53. Marlon Teodosio
54. Ma. Luisa Generoso
55. Leticia Javier
56. Agnes Kay Angeles
57. Gloria Batingan
58. Concesa Casasola
59. Norma Ignacio
60. Domingo Navarro

**60 Winners of Philips DVD Players**

1. Elvira Gabucan
2. Shirley Cabrera
3. Marissa Santos
4. Jocelyn Galto
5. Brayan Patawaran
6. Christian Tusoro
7. Jana Granado
8. Nelda Bueneventura
9. Rocaredo Cabrera
10. Leticia Panganiban
11. Maricel De Leon
12. Marjorie Del Rosario
13. Marlene Mojica
14. Elsa Amor Hassan
15. Linda Tan Kiong
16. Chilo Jame Delator
17. Jolleh Petallo
18. Maria Leah Cuono
19. Alkodrick Noguera
20. Valrie Faye Pole
21. Meliza Dela Rosa
22. Frederic Avarilla
23. Belmerto Omillo
24. Ruel Alejandro
25. Leni Nuqui
26. Alfredo Parlas
27. Pablo Solano
28. Marcelo Maylas
29. Lorena Somcio
30. Jacquiline Gotiong
31. Bernadette Rañada
32. Rosario Carubio
33. Liezl Delmo
34. Enrico Ruidera
35. Leticia Chua
36. Cecile King
37. Rachell Juan
38. Angelo Los Baños
39. Marites Pasigan
40. Eva Lee Alwalas
41. Isaa Ruth Fernandez
42. Vivian Limlengco
43. Giovanna Milan
44. Henry Pablo
45. Saturnina Ferrer
46. Glenda Gerona
47. Frederick Tipon
48. Evoryan Villafuerte
49. Mirasol Firwelo
50. Rocha Alcantara
51. Maria Cherovie Rodolfo
52. Jennath De Guzman
53. Anily Centino
54. Delia Obar
55. Jano Geronimo
56. Reynante Lazo
57. Maribel Daconay
58. Zendy Yumul
59. Marivic Bonafus
60. Nenita Esguerra

**60 Winners of Timex Watches**

1. Armilyn Evora
2. Alberto Lim
3. Rianne Roxas-Martinez
4. Nina Dimalwat
5. Rowena A. Magpoc
6. Sherlyn Sarmiento
7. Aprille Constantino
8. Avegail Marie Aguilar
9. Rodolfo Tolentino
10. Ma. Katherine Grano
11. Arlenn Jamson
12. Virgilio Latore Jr.
13. Marvin Ramirez
14. Maricel Gemarino
15. Ma. Teresa Diaz
16. Arianne Rae Gosmundo
17. Helen Santos
18. Salvacion Basconcito
19. Ricardo Javier
20. Federico Garoza Jr.
21. Avegail Gapido
22. Imelda Villamor
23. Regina Ravino
24. Eric Ian Singson
25. Dhamnel Nazario
26. Marcy Arana
27. Massie Realon
28. Luis Basaysay
29. Chino Sarte
30. Gerald Decano
31. Elisa Santos
32. Hanzel Jay de Castro
33. Christopher Padrejuan
34. Elvin Basco
35. Franco Rafael Barrozo
36. Leonila Villamor
37. Andoe Von Crisonto
38. Liberty Natividad
39. Sheila Quintana
40. Donna Mendoza
41. Celia Lameyra
42. Francisco Gabriel Sr.
43. Arvin Taguinota
44. Antonio Roxas
45. Arlyn Enriquez
46. Linette Pabularcon
47. Ester Pascual
48. Alma Bautista
49. Czeren Santos
50. Francisco Remi Avellana
51. Maricel Gemarino
52. Jennifer Caminoy
53. Holemia Javierto
54. Roda Nicolas
55. Mara Renee Ibalia
56. Marites Reyes
57. Nena Muriello Estrella
58. Emetorio Sarmiento
59. Maria Flores
60. Evangeline Algo

**60 Winners of ₱ 6,000 Max's GCs**

1. Michael Pascua
2. Joan Delizo
3. Cynthia Baladad
4. Evelyn Tan
5. Veronica Estrella
6. Vicky Bilbao
7. Joan Lasala
8. Maureen Day Santiago
9. Rogelio Alguidano
10. Ivy Jill Ala
11. Leticia Floros
12. Diana Cosare
13. Aracoli Banaag
14. Jordan Lim
15. Cecilo Yumul
16. Federico Garoza Jr.
17. Joanne Cang
18. Estela Madrigal
19. Ma. Emelita Enguez
20. Francis Guillermo
21. Marlon Sicat
22. Jacquline Sison
23. Cheryl Tan
24. Gina Sto. Domingo
25. Gina Constantino
26. Jayson Valdez
27. Daisy Hernadez
28. Saturnino De Vera
29. Buena Fe Valdez
30. Imelda Garcia
31. Michelle Cunatapay
32. Merlita Pagul
33. Lilia Teves
34. Anabel Barrack
35. Luisito Enriquez
36. Genifer Elmedolan
37. Ma. Tracey Barcel
38. Mardavo Lapastora
39. Jael Escalante
40. Jen Alava
41. Freny Pangan
42. Estela Uri
43. Victoriano Secusana
44. Irene Ostinado
45. Bella Cariaso
46. Ralph Bucatcat
47. Corazon Evangelista
48. Aimee Delfin
49. Noel Sanchez
50. Ofelia Molino
51. Wendell Solomon
52. Letty Esquivel
53. Ma.Luisa Malabanan
54. Dolores Sungcuan
55. Analiza Torry
56. Eduardo Tan
57. Jessie Torres
58. Mary Ness Asuncion
59. Encarnacion Soto
60. Rowena Rizalado

Congratulations sa lahat ng winners! Hintayin ang registered mail para sa instructions on how to claim your prize.

Per DTI NCR Permit No. 2154 Series of 2005

## ROUNDUP

### Paul McCartney, author

LOS ANGELES—Besides being a grandfather, a knight, and a former Beatle, Paul McCartney is now a children's book author.

The 63-year-old singer entertained a young group of cute but squirmy elementary school students Thursday by reading an excerpt from his new book "High in the Clouds" and answering questions.

"Why did the author make such sad stories for children?" asked one perplexed little boy after the mother of a squirrel is crushed to death by a tree.

Caught off-guard, McCartney wrapped his arm around the boy and joked, "To make children cry." He quickly added, "But cheer up. It's going to be all right."

On Aug. 9, Nasa jolted awake the crew of space shuttle Discovery with the Beatles classic, "Good Day Sunshine." Earlier today (0055 GMT Sunday), McCartney serenaded astronauts Bill McArthur and Valery Tokarev with the same tune, broadcast live on Nasa TV. He earlier said, "It'll be an out-of-space blast. Lots of puns intended."

### Highest honor

LOS ANGELES—Sean Connery will receive the American Film Institute's Life Achievement Award, its highest honor for a career in film, AFI announced. The award will be presented to the Scottish actor in Los Angeles on June 8.

Howard Stringer, chair of the AFI Board of Trustees, called Connery "an artist of the highest order." Stringer said, "His body of work not only stands the test of time, but illuminates a career more extraordinary than James Bond's." Connery portrayed agent James Bond in six films from 1962 to 1971.

The actor is the the 34th recipient of the award, established in 1973. The others include Orson Welles, Bette Davis, Alfred Hitchcock, Sidney Poitier, Elizabeth Taylor, Jack Nicholson, Steven Spielberg, Clint Eastwood, Martin Scorsese, Robert DeNiro, Meryl Streep and George Lucas.

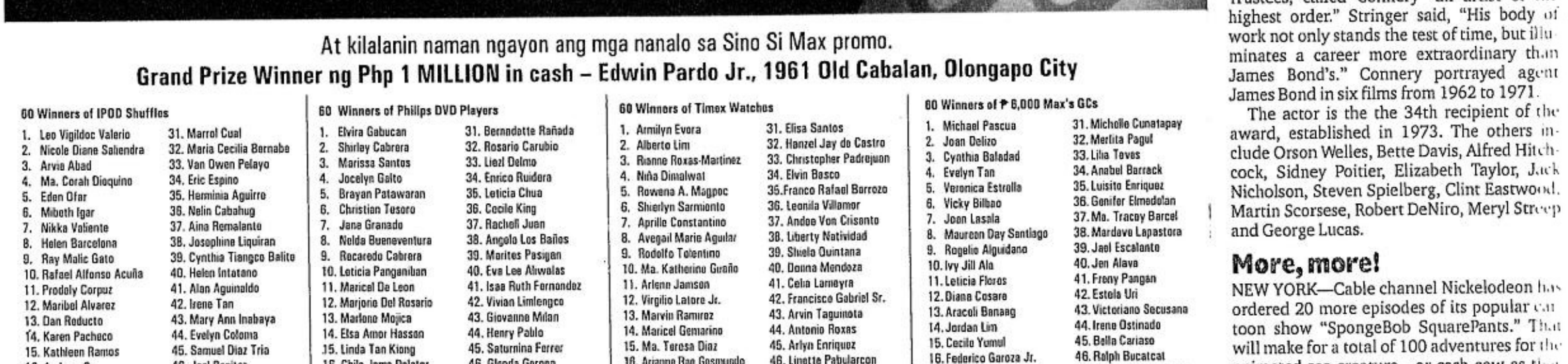
### More, more!

NEW YORK—Cable channel Nickelodeon has ordered 20 more episodes of its popular cartoon show "SpongeBob SquarePants." That will make for a total of 100 adventures for the animated sea creature—or cash cow as they know him at Nickelodeon—when the new episodes finish airing in 2007.

"It just doesn't feel like we should stop yet," said Cyma Zarghami, Nickelodeon's chief executive.

Nickelodeon stopped making new episodes while the "SpongeBob SquarePants" feature film was in production—then 20 episodes were ordered last year and are airing now.

It's the kid-oriented network's most popular show. A recent deal to air it in China means it's shown in 25 different languages around the world.



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# 'Rent' the movie—the Pinoy connection

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

*Ruben V. Nepales*

LOS ANGELES—WE JUST SAW the movie, "Memoirs of a Geisha," and we are glad to report that all the members of the largely Asian cast give memorable performances.

**Ziyi Zhang, Michelle Yeoh, Gong Li** and **Ken Watanabe** shine in director **Rob Marshall**'s first film project after his award-winning "Chicago." The casting of Chinese actresses, including Michelle who is Chinese-Malaysian, in the lead roles have rankled the Japanese so it will be interesting to see how this adaptation of Arthur Golden's hit 1997 novel will be received in Japan. In supporting roles are Japanese thespians **Koji Yakusha** and **Youki Kudoh** who also give "memoir"-able performances.

## What Columbus did

When you are directing the

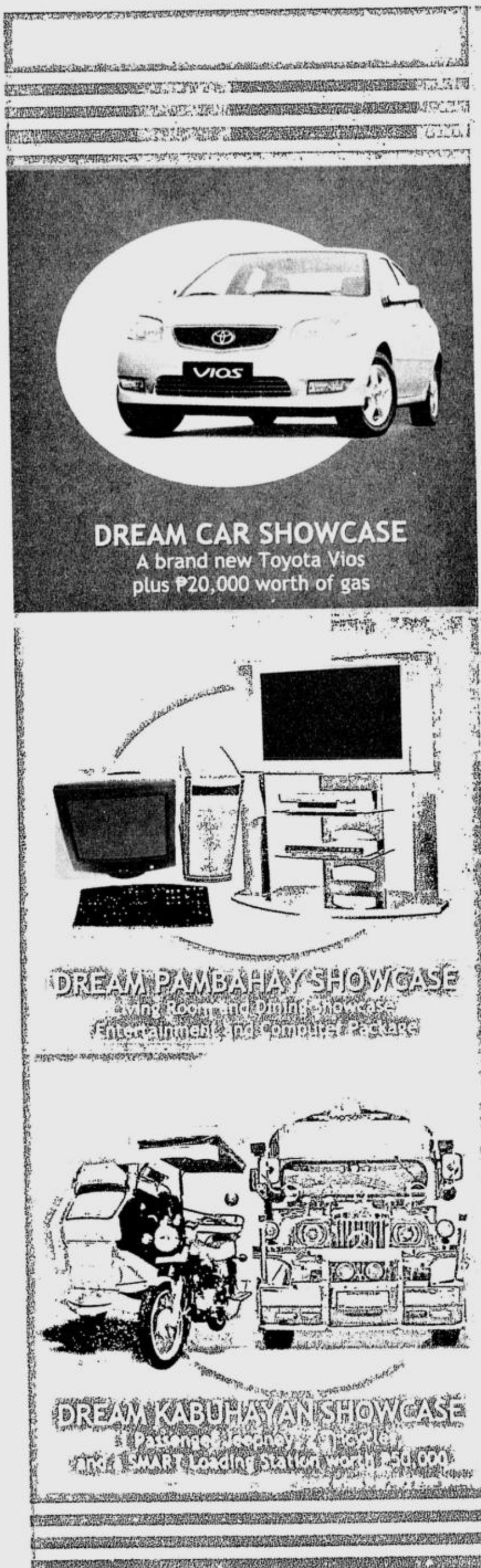
'RENT'/ A2-2

"RENT" cast, from left: Wilson Jermaine Heredia, Anthony Rapp, Tracie Thoms, director Chris Columbus, Rosario Dawson, Adam Pascal. Not in photo are Taye Diggs and Idina Menzel.

## CHEER FACTOR

### Red, red Rosa

BEFORE the special preview of **Manuel Silos**' "Biyaya ng Lupa" at the ABS-CBN compound on Thursday, drama queen **Rosa Rosal**, star of the vintage film, demonstrated that she could also be a stand-up comic. In her speech, she said, "**John Estrada** and my co-stars on 'Vietnam Rose' asked where I buy my wigs." Tugging at her hair, she exclaimed, "This is real! And my eyelashes are real, too." Then, addressing screen writer **Ricky Lee**, Rosa said, "You must write a script for me because... let's face it, I am now in the departure area of life."



# 'Rent' the movie—the Pinoy connection

From page A2-1

movie version of the smash musical "Rent" and you want to have an idea of the show's choreography but there are scarce tapes of previous "Rent" stage productions, what do you do?

Watch a Manila production of "Rent" in Filipino, of course. That's what **Chris Columbus** did. The director of the first two "Harry Potter" movies recently told me that the father of the late **Jonathan Larson** (who wrote the Pulitzer Prize-winning musical) had tipped him off that there was a tape of "Rent" in Tagalog at New York's Lincoln Center. Chris went to the Lincoln Center and watched this tape of a Philippine production which, according to him, was filmed with one camera from the back of the theater.

The filmmaker who also helmed "Mrs. Doubtfire" and the "Home Alone" movies said he was impressed with the Manila production. He added that the Filipino actor who played the songwriter **Roger Davis** character "did a very good job."

After our interview with **Anthony Rapp**, one of the original "Rent" cast members starring in the film version as well, he asked me if was Filipino. I wonder why?

Anthony, who plays documentarist **Mark Cohen**, said his partner for over three years now, **Rodney To**, is Filipino-American. Rodney, according to Anthony, is also an actor who, at the time of our interview, was in Chicago to receive an award for his performance in "The Romance of Magno Rubio."

The bespectacled stage veteran (at 10, he toured with the late **Yul Brynner** for "The King and I") said he had worked with **Lea Salonga** in a benefit show. "Lea told me that there had been several productions of 'Rent' in the Philippines," he stated. Then, breaking into a smile, he told me that he knew a few Tagalog words such as "*mabuhay*," "*talaga*" and... "*mabaho*."

"Rodney's parents grew up in the Philippines," Anthony added. Thus surrounded by Filipinos, the OBIE award-winning performer said, "I can spot a Filipino." I wonder what gave me away?

The good news is that "Rent," the movie does not disappoint. And surprise, surprise—**Rosario Dawson** as Mimi Marquez (she and **Tracie Thoms** are the only two cast members who were not in the original Broadway production) sings very well. Anthony, with the rest of the cast —**Taye Diggs**, **Idina Menzel**, **Adam Pascal**, **Wilson Jermaine Heredia** and **Jesse L. Martin**—make it worth revisiting this rock opera based on Puccini's classic opera, "La Boheme."

Rosario told us that she grew up right in New York's East Village, where this tale of bohemians searching for love and grappling with the AIDS epidemic in the 1990s takes place.

## Flood of e-mails

Thanks to the many readers from all over the world who flooded me with e-mails about my article on Lea Salonga's debut concert at the Carnegie Hall in New York. **Victor Lirio**, Lea's friend, had every reason to be all smiles during the VIP reception at the Providence restaurant and lounge. Lea did the show for the benefit of the Diverse City Theater Company, of which Victor is the artistic and producing director.

## Is that Dennis?

I knew that I was back in LA when a woman absent-mindedly stood in front of my car at the driveway of the Regent Beverly Wilshire (which will forever be remembered as the glamorous hotel in **Julia Roberts**' "Pretty Woman" movie) and prevented me from driving away. But a man, pointing at me, told the lady, "He's trying to get out." The guy was **Dennis Quaid** and the woman (attractive, of course) gave a sheepish smile and stepped aside. Only in Hollywood, folks.

*(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)*

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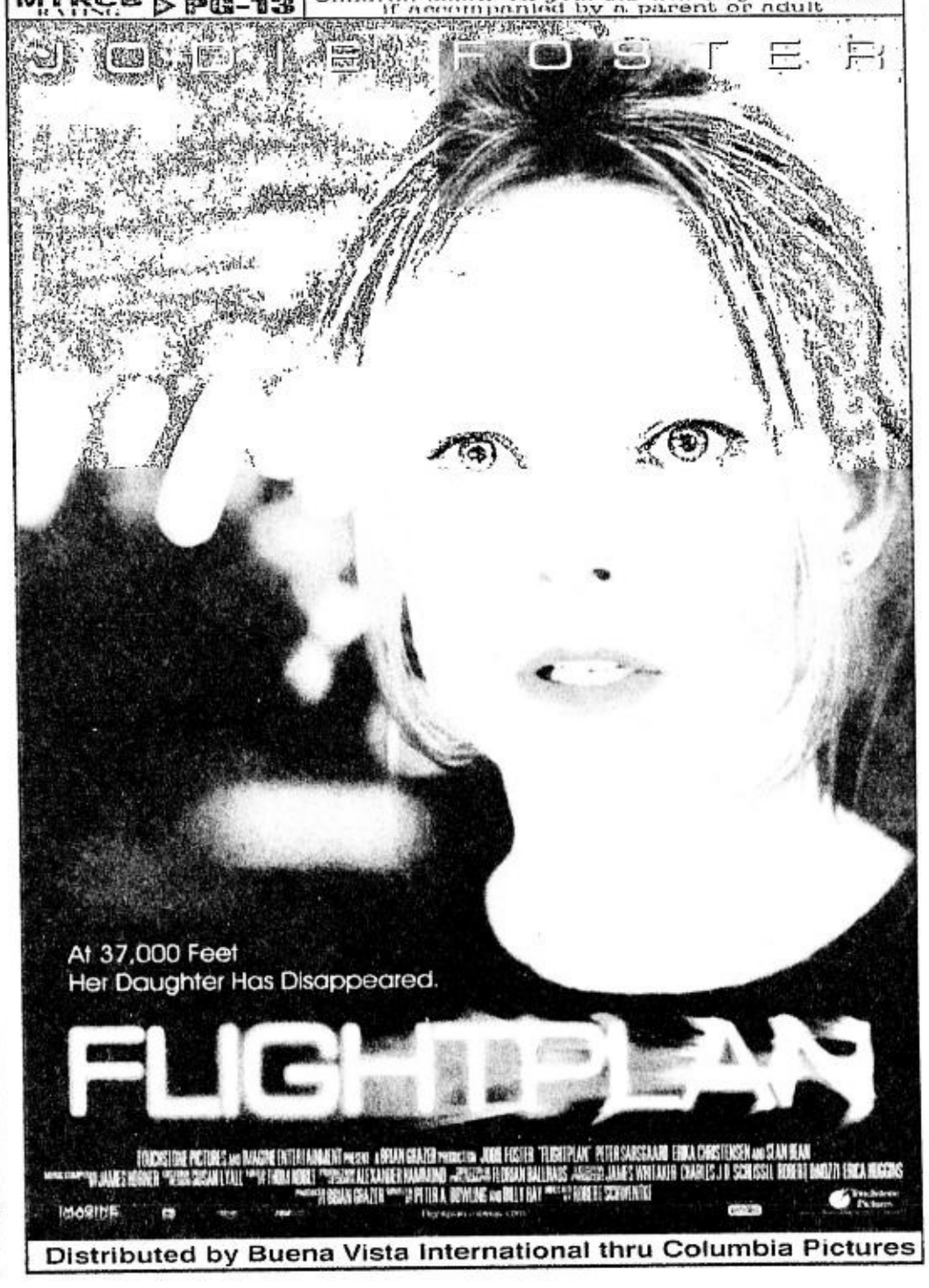


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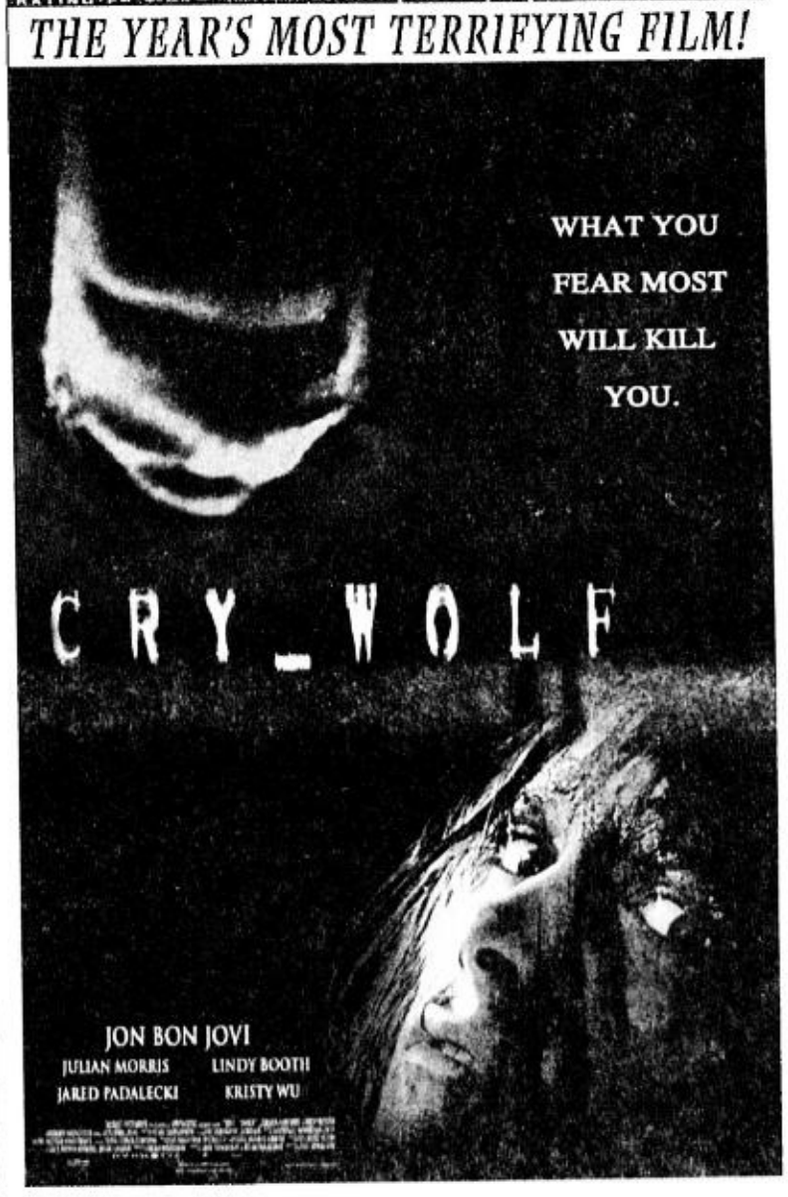


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FLIGHT PLAN PG13 1:50,4:10,6:30,8:50
FLIGHT PLAN PG13 12:15,2:35,4.55,7:15,9:35
FOUR BROTHERS R13 12:30,2:50,5:10,7:30,9:50
CRY WOLF PG3 2:00,4:00,6:00,8:00,10:00
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3. Just text your sticker code once and the system will automatically count the equivalent number of votes based on the pack size purchased. The more entries sent in, the more chances of winning.

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**RAFFLE WINNERS AND PRIZES**

1. A total of 100 winners nationwide will be drawn electronically from the following areas:

| Area | Luzon | Visayas | Mindanao |
|---|---|---|---|
| No. of winners | 40 | 30 | 30 |

2. Each winner will be included in the cast of the CloseUp movie.

3. Each winner will also receive one of three possible prizes:

| Date | Winners | Prize |
|---|---|---|
| 3rd Week of November | 1st Batch of 20 winning texters | Nokia Cellphone |
| 4th Week of November | 2nd Batch of 20 winning texters | Nokia Cellphone |
| 1st Week of December | 3rd Batch of 20 winning texters | Nokia Cellphone |
| 2nd Week of December | 4th Batch of 20 winning texters | Canon Digital Camera |
| 3rd Week of December | 5th Batch of 20 winning texters | Canon Video Camera |

**PROMO RULES & REGULATIONS**

1. The promo period is from November 1, 2005 to December 18, 2005.

2. The winner will be notified thru his/her mobile phone and thru registered mail. The following must be presented by the winner for verification and to claim his prize:

   a. Original and Photocopy of two (2) valid IDs with picture and signature, bearing the same name and address that was used in registering for the promo

   b. Active SIM card used in the registration

   c. Close Up pack with the winning sticker code. Enclosed sachets and tube packs must be at least 75% or ¾ intact to qualify as valid entries. Sticker should be stickered on the pack and must not have tears, wrinkles, and any other signs that show tampering. All stickers and packs are subject to the verification of Unilever Philippines, Inc. Sticker must not be detached from the Close Up product.

   d. Winner's notification mail sent by Unilever Philippines, Inc.

   e. Failure to present all requirements will disqualify the winner from claiming the prize.

3. The director of the movie and the Close Up brand team shall have the discretion to assign roles to the winners.

4. All winners will be notified at least one week in advance of the shooting date and location.

5. In the event that a winner can not make it to the movie shooting, their slot shall be forfeited. The director of the movie shall have the discretion to find a substitute if needed.

6. Prizes are tax free but are non-transferable.

7. Prizes may be claimed at Unilever Philippines, Inc., 1351 United Nations Avenue, Manila.

8. Unclaimed prizes after 60 days upon receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of Unilever Philippines.

9. Unilever Philippines reserves the right to publish and/or broadcast any winner's names, addresses, photos, and likeness, for advertising and publicity purposes without further compensation to the winner.

10. All employees of Unilever Philippines, their suppliers, third party agencies, Global Wireless Connections Inc., Smart Communications, Inc., Globe Telecom, Sun Cellular and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

11. The winner declared by Unilever Philippines, Inc. with the concurrence of the BFAD will be final.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit no. 1183 Series of 2005

"MOMS" Lani Mercado and Sherilyn Reyes

MELANIE Marquez (center) and her "Fashionista" aides.

# What women want

VIEWFINDER

*Nestor U. Torre*

FOR SOMETIME NOW, CHANNEL 11 HAS BEEN biding its time, airing religious shows as it figures out a more definitive identity for itself.

Well, that long-awaited transformation was finally revealed last Friday when the TV station —reinvented as a channel for women, with the help of GMA-7—went back on the air.

QTV 11 now fields a raft of programs for women, like "Women's Desk," a public service show that seeks to uphold the rights of women and children, with **Rhea Santos** as host.

"Liga ng Kababaihan," hosted by **Suzy Entrata-Abrera, Gaby Concepcion** (the lawyer), not **Sharon's** ex!), and **Lynn Ching-Pascual.** The telemagazine show focuses on women's diverse concerns, interests and issues.

"O Mare" with **Amy Austria, Lorna Tolentino, Sandy Andolong** and **Gina Alajar.** The casting is "shades of 'Moral'," but the issues are different here, as the four hosts play it light and breezy as they showcase different Filipinas' lives.

Other new shows deal with the concerns of mothers and women of other age groups, thus expanding the channel's potential viewership.

What about a program on female-male relationship?

That could help make men feel less left out.

It's gratifying to note that QTV 11 doesn't hew to the traditionally held view that programs for women should be escapist, frothy, fad-oriented and out of touch with reality.

The channel's more engaged attitude should persuade some female viewers to go beyond the "women who lunch" syndrome and deal with the problems that face them, not only as women, but also as active and equal participants in the nation's life.

If QTV 11 succeeds in developing a loyal viewership in the next few months, it could end up as free TV's third or fourth most popular channel, after GMA-7 and ABS-CBN Channel 2.

That would put it in direct competition with ANC and ABC-5, which are currently filling those slots.

Conversely, the entry of QTV 11 should light a fire under those two "runner-up" channels, to make their programming even more dynamic than it already is.

Just in the nick of time, ABC-5 has enlivened its offerings with the recent infusion of new shows like "The Apprentice—Martha Stewart."

Will ANC come up with more investigative news reports and analytical documentaries to keep its own viewers from sampling the new competition's offerings?

The TV wars thicken.

## 'Merry Christmas'

FRANCE'S 2005 Oscar entry, "Merry Christmas," will have its Asian premiere in Manila this month, ahead of its Feb. 26 opening in the US. Directed by **Christian Carion** and starring **Diane Kruger,** the film takes a little-known story of the fraternization of enemies in 1914, and transforms it into an ode to peace.

## 'Batman Begins' on DVD

"BATMAN Begins" has been released on DVD, in a single disc version and a two-disc deluxe edition.

The two-disc version is packed with bonus features that include a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the film, various other incarnations of the Dark Knight, and a collectible DC Comics comic book. The film stars **Christian Bale,** and is directed by **Christopher Nolan.**

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

*Business Features Editor* **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

FELIX Ang in his younger years

# He shelved college to get his hands dirty and fatten his bank account

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IT IS A GOOD THING that Felix Ang of CATS Inc. did not want to learn Chinese.

Otherwise, he would have pursued a career in the corporate world instead of blazing his own trail in the automotive business.

Ang was just 15 when his mother first brought him to the car supply shop of her friend in Blumentritt, since he refused to spend his afternoons learning Chinese characters.

She "bribed" her friend with fried chicken so he would accept the young, inexperienced, but eager part-time worker that Ang was in 1975.

Ang tells Sunday Biz he got P60 a month for helping around the shop, sorting screws and counting nuts and bolts and spare parts used mainly in passenger jeepneys.

A boy Friday, in short.

But it was love at first salary for Ang, so much so that after a year of working in the shop, he decided to quit school altogether and devote all his time to learning the business.

"I managed to convince my parents that I could always go back to school if I don't succeed," Ang says.

In 1978, the 18-year-old Felix and his older brother, Tony, took a leap of faith when they decided to strike out on their own, putting up a trading outfit with nothing going for them except experience and the blessing of Felix's former boss.

"He gave me my first break because he gave me the supplies I needed for our car accessories shop on credit," he says.

Their only capital was a small Ford Escort van worth P8,000 that they used to transport their goods to and from their first 30-square-meter shop along Del Monte Ave. in Quezon City.

That first shop became the first of many shops that got bigger and better each time they opened one.

Felix says their business flourished because they were at the right place at the right time.

Cars in the late '70s to the '80s rolled out of the car dealers' shop bare, such that the usual first thing to do after getting a car from a car dealers' shop was to go to a car accessories shop to dress it up.

"We sold a lot of floor mats. We had them in rubber, vinyl and others. Name it, we had it," Ang says.

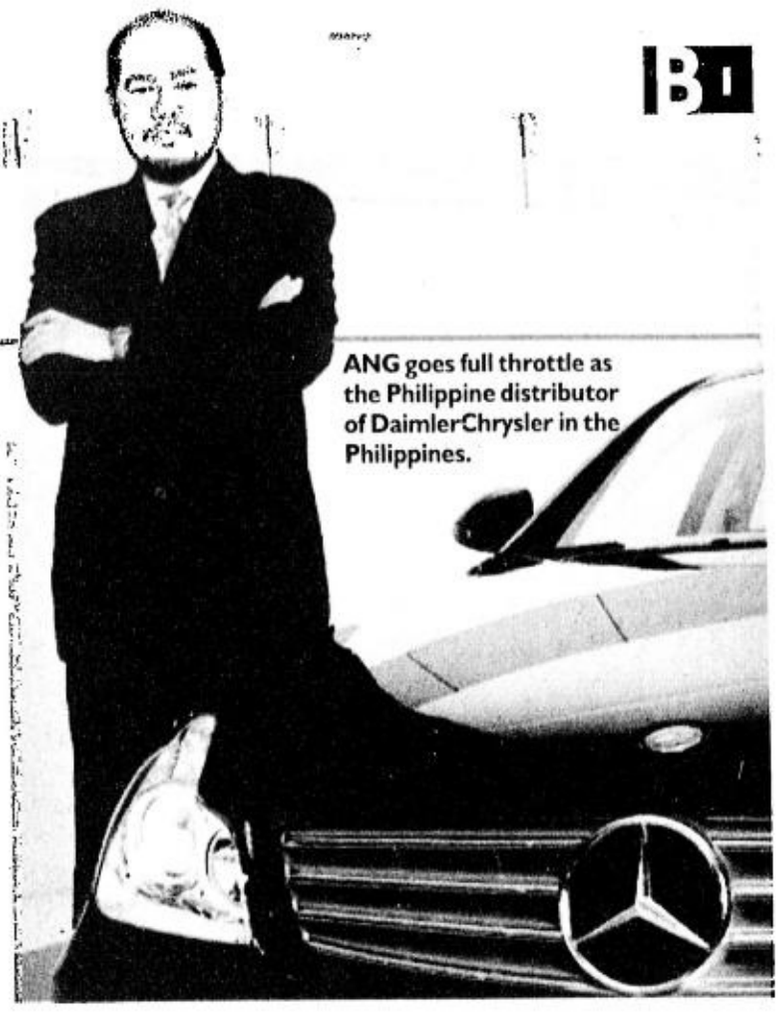
Further bolstering the business was the decision by major car companies, such as Toyota, to pull out of the Philippines in the early 1980s due to economic uncertainties.

**FIRST JOB**

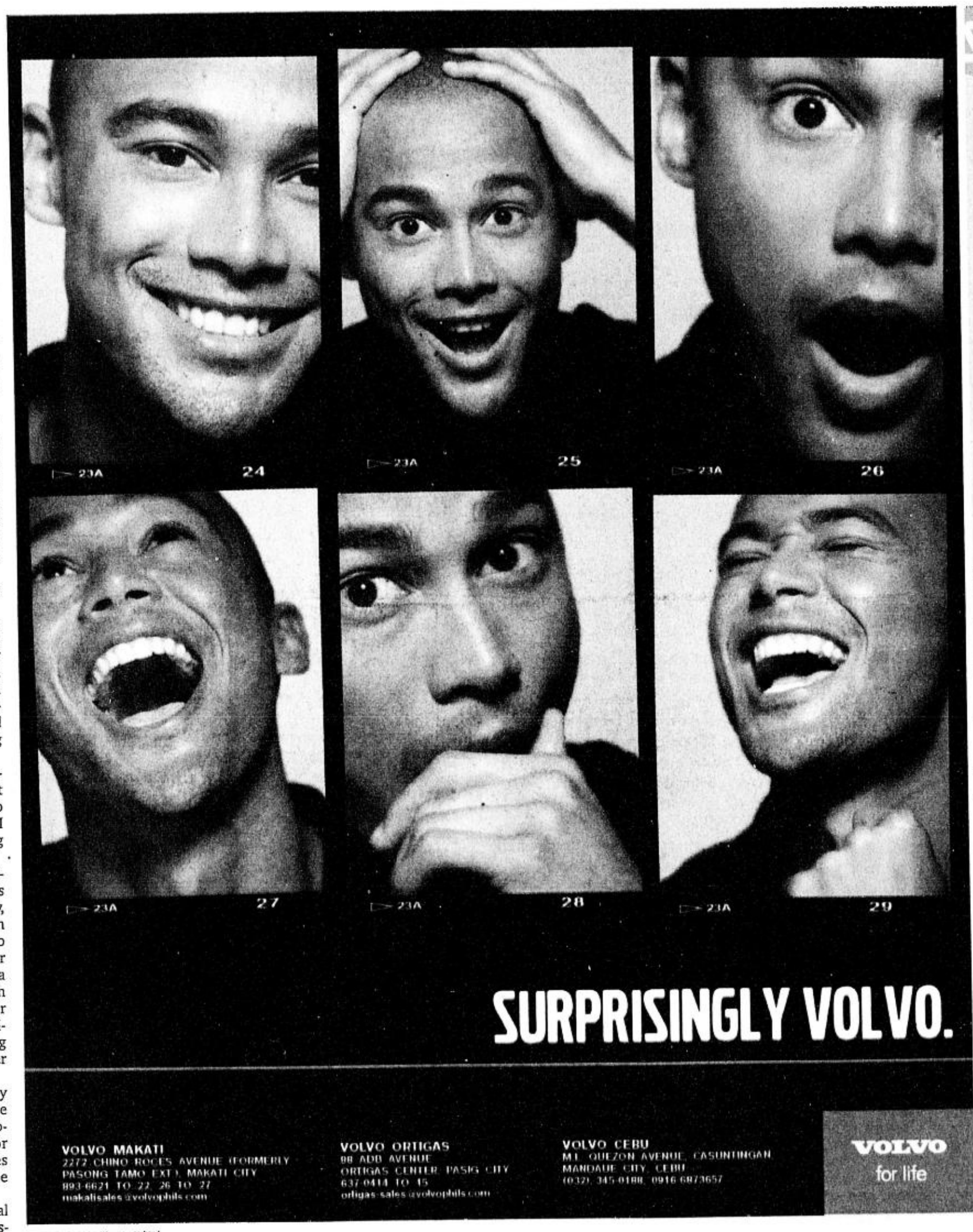
"Because it was harder to get a new car, people just fixed up their old car by buying accessories," Ang explains.

Soon, the Ang brothers became the leading forces in the car accessories business, supply-

HE SHELVED/ B2



ANG goes full throttle as the Philippine distributor of DaimlerChrysler in the Philippines.



## S60 OOOHH'S & AAHH'S

**The feel for driving varies from one person to another - the character of the driver against the vehicle he drives. Below are respected motoring journalists who took the S60 T5 for a test drive. Read through and be amazed at how each writer was pleasantly and surprisingly impressed after commanding the S60 T5.**

"The winner 'displayed the best characteristics of a sporty luxury sedan, with performance and safety features that will satisfy even the most discriminating clientele.' That car is the Volvo S60 T5. Despite what the folks from the German luxury car manufacturer would say, Volvo is right up there when it comes to engineering and technological leadership, particularly in the area of safety. Luxury, as well as the level of creature comforts and amenities, is far from wanting. And that's even before you drop in a turbocharger that allows the T5 model to run away from competitors in price range."

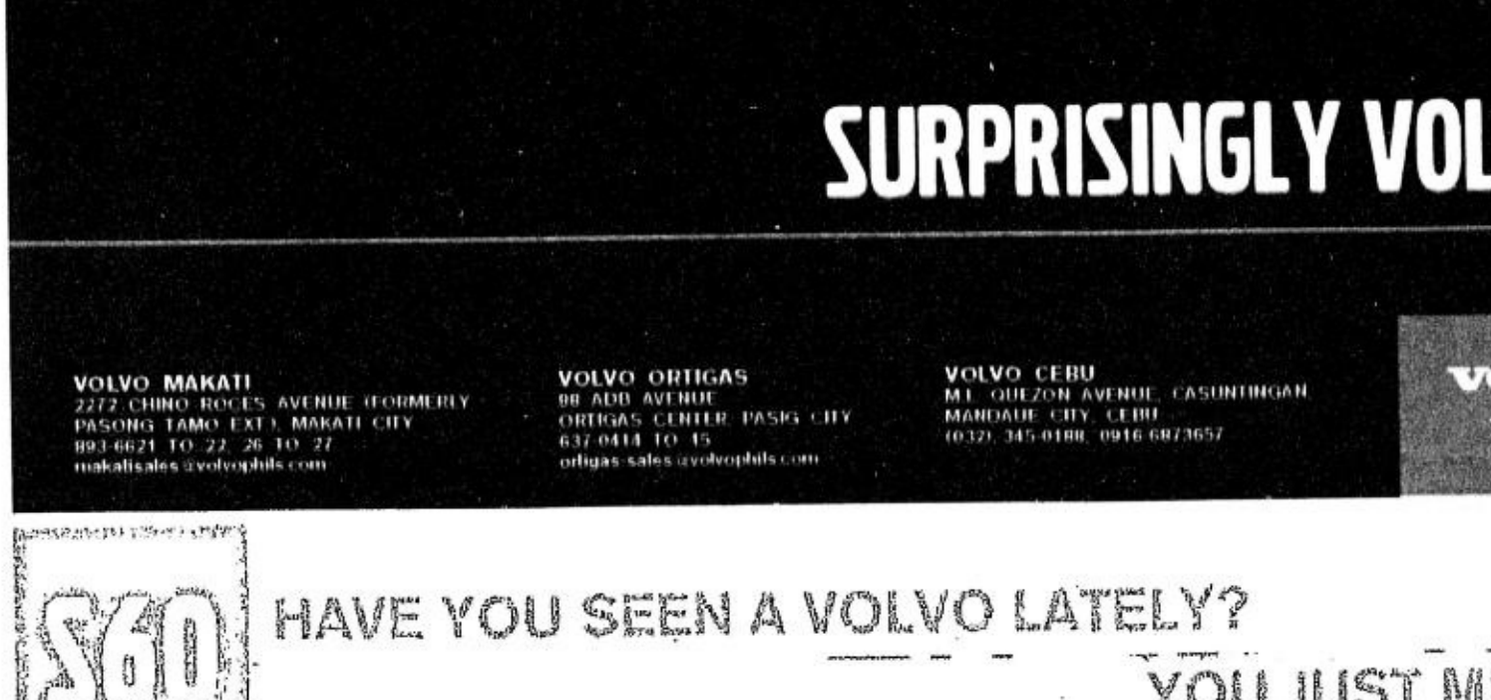
**MANNY DELOS REYES**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
SPEED MAGAZINE
CONTRIBUTOR, THE PHILIPPINE STAR

"It may probably be due to the engine or the software governing the front wheels (not a robotized central differential, 4-wheel drive etc.) but it must be the sheer brutality of the thing that made it head and shoulders above our favorites, the Impreza and Evo VIII. Influenced by the strong kick in the solar plexus, we truly felt that if power and excitement is what you want, like say a HEMI head muscle car, this is what you need."

**C! MAGAZINE TEAM**
"BEST 10" ISSUE

"The Volvo's new S60 T5 has a cleaner front end with standard HID and considerably more powerful 2.4 liter dohc 5-cylinder 20-valve engine with variable valve timing and 260 bhp. The drive is versatile. You can choose to cruise down avenues in style or fly through freeways like a speed-horny demon, either way the T5 performs fabulously. You end the drive feeling completely satisfied, not wanting more nor less, just grateful for having been treated so kindly by an automobile."

**JOSE MARI UGARTE**
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
EVO MAGAZINE

# He shelved college to get his hands dirty and fatten ...

DR. RAINER Thiel, president and CEO of DaimlerChrysler Southeast Asia, awards the distributorship to CATS Motors Inc. represented by Ang and chair Greg Yu

From page B1

ing retailers such as SM Aca. They became wholesalers themselves from the traders they were when they started out.

In 1983, they got their first major deal with a foreign company when they were given the exclusive right to locally distribute Michelin tires, which Ang still has more than 20 years later.

This was followed in 1998 by a major deal with the Sanden air-conditioning group to become its original equipment manufacturer in the Philippines.

Ang's next leap of faith came the following year when he put up CATS Motors along Edsa near the Greenhills area, a one-stop shop for car accessories, tires and accessories, hence the name.

This time he went solo. His brother continued with his own businesses.

"That was a difficult year because I opened November and by December there were coups," Ang says, "I told myself there goes my business."

Fortunately, his shop was spared and CATS moved from strength to strength.

Ang considers 1991 a turning point as it started his relationship with Mercedes Benz.

CATS began as an accredited service maintenance shop, with an eight-bay garage.

"I had to look for another business because I noticed that the car accessories business was a sunset business," Ang says.

Unlike in the 1970s when he started, cars in the 1990s to today come out of the shop fully loaded.

Not content with just being a maintenance shop with the car accessories, of course, Ang went after a dealership which he got in 1994, with the introduction of the Mercedes C and E class.

But the ultimate achievement is Ang's bagging the right to distribute DaimlerChrysler vehicles—which includes Mercedes Benz, Chrysler and Jeep—starting this year.

Ang says he got the distributorship because he maintained a good working relationship with the company since he started servicing their vehicles in the country.

It is all about having *sin liong*, he says, or credibility and word of honor in English.

"In business, you must have a good standing with your suppliers, banks, customers and principals," he says. "You must always have a good track record."

It also helps that when it comes to the automotive industry, Ang is an expert and he knows more about it than the next guy with a business degree from Harvard or any management schools.

He, however, is not afraid to admit that he needs help and that his old, entrepreneurial way of doing things, where he makes all the decisions, will no longer be as effective given today's business climate.

Ang thus hired a trusted friend and finance expert, Gregorio Yu, to take over as chief executive, with the mandate to professionalize the organization and keep up with standards set by the DaimlerChrysler group.

Ang's financial system running on a $35 finance software he bought off the rack, had to go even if it served him well for over 10 years.

"In the beginning, what you needed were quick decisions," he says, "but it may no longer work because times have changed. I am taking the challenge to professionalize the business."

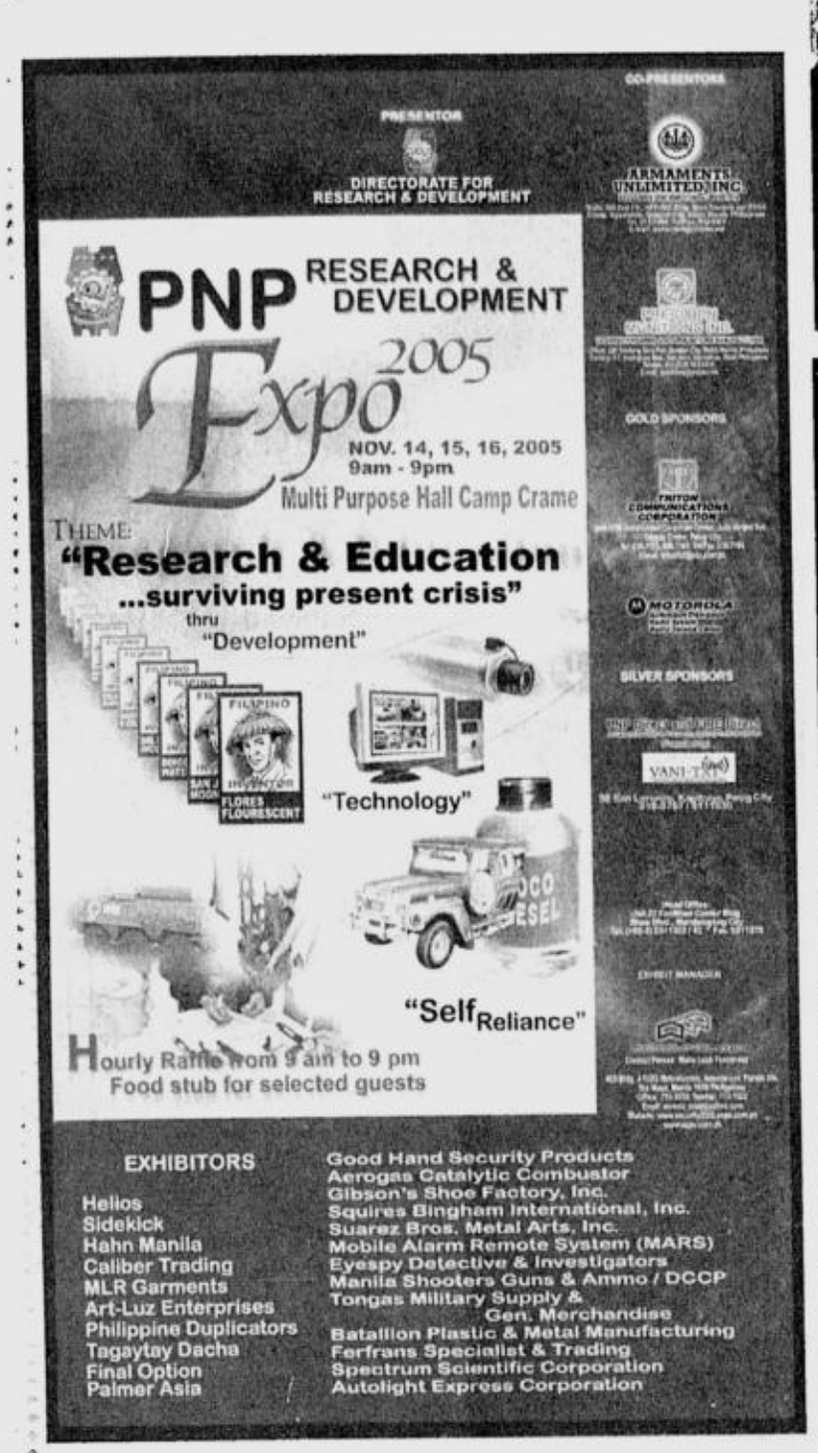
That move, he adds, will prepare the groundwork for CATS to achieve its goal of making Mercedes Benz the leader in the luxury car segment.

It has been an exhilarating ride down a long road for Ang, and he says it was just as well that he did not get a degree.

"If I had known how complicated business was, I would not have gone into it," he says with a laugh.

But what he lacked in formal education, he made up for in not being afraid to get his hands dirty, maintaining good relationships and focusing resources and energies in a single business.

"It is a good thing I succeeded, or I would have ended up a janitor, or maybe a limousine driver so that I'll still get to drive a Mercedes Benz," he says.


KING JAMES AUCTION CALENDAR

ON-SITE AUCTION
SCRAP METAL AUCTION
SITE ADDRESS : KING JAMES AUCTION PHILIPPINE HEADQUARTERS 777 OLD NATIONAL HIGHWAY, STO. CRISTO, PULILAN, BULACAN
VIEWING DATES : NOVEMBER 14 - 15, 2005, 9:00AM – 5:00PM
AUCTION DATE: NOVEMBER 16, 2005 (WED), 10:30AM
450 TONS OF SCRAP METAL CONSISTING OF I-BEAMS, STEEL CHECKERED PLATES, ALUMINUM CHECKERED PLATES, (6) AIR COMPRESSOR, (2) GENERATOR, (6) WALK-IN CHILLER, COPPER WIRES, CONDUIT PIPES, STEEL TRUSSES, GI SHEETS, PURLINS, (2) ELEVATOR, COPPER WIRES, ALUMINUM, GATE VALVES, SS FOOD COUNTER, SS HIGH / LOW PRESSURE STOVE, SS PIZZA OVEN, (20) ASSTD. AIRCON (3/5/10 TONNER), SS SINGLE / TWIN TUB SINK, 1,000PCS. ASSTD. CERAMIC LAVATORY, IMPORTED FAUCETS, ORBIT FANS, & MANY MORE
REFUNDABLE / CONSUMABLE DEPOSIT OF P 20,000.00

ON-SITE AUCTION
SCRAP METAL AUCTION
SITE ADDRESS : DR. A. DELOS SANTOS AVE., PHILACOR DRIVE, SUCAT, PARAÑAQUE CITY
VIEWING DATES : NOVEMBER 16 - 17, 2005, 9:00AM – 5:00PM
AUCTION DATE: NOVEMBER 18, 2005 (FRI), 10:30AM
CONSISTING OF 160 TONS I-BEAMS, (11,000PCS) GI SHEETS, TRUSSES, PURLINS, INDUSTRIAL LIGHTING FIXTURES, CONDUIT PIPES, GI PIPES, ROLL UP DOORS, STEEL DOORS, LUMBER, APPROX 2,000 TONS SCRAP METAL AND MANY MORE
REFUNDABLE / CONSUMABLE DEPOSIT OF P 25,000.00

PULILAN AUCTION
SITE ADDRESS : 333 OLD NATIONAL HIGHWAY, STO. CRISTO, PULILAN, BULACAN
VIEWING DATES : NOVEMBER 18 - 19, 2005, 9:00AM – 5:00PM
AUCTION DATE: NOVEMBER 20, 2005 (SUN), 10:30AM
REFUNDABLE / CONSUMABLE DEPOSIT OF P 5,000.00

ON-SITE AUCTION
MARGARINE PLANT MACHINES
SITE ADDRESS : BRGY. GANADO, LIIP, BINAN, LAGUNA
VIEWING DATES : NOVEMBER 21 - 22, 2005, 9:00AM – 5:00PM
AUCTION DATE: NOVEMBER 23, 2005 (WED), 10:30AM
CONSISTING OF 220 TONS SCRAP METAL & STAINLESS, SCRAP I-BEAMS & PIPES, (2) AMMONIA COMPRESSOR, (4) SS MIXING TANKS, (5) STEEL PRESS, (1) LOT ELECTRICAL WIRES, SAFETY SWITCHES, BREAKERS FOR THE WHOLE MARGARINE PLANT
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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| November 19, 2005* | March 4, 2006 | April 8, 2006 |
| January 21, 2006* | March 18, 2006* | April 22, 2006* |
| February 4, 2006 | February 18, 2006* | *Nationwide Exam |

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Fax No.: (034) 434 6929
E-mail: admit@usls.edu.ph

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# Nothing wasted in this fast food

By Christine A. Gaylican

PALAWEÑO ERIC JOHN G. YAYEN BROUGHT the concept of a fast-food business with a twist to his hometown eight years ago.

Doing a first with his Haim Chicken Inato Restaurant, Eric proved to his *kababayans* and visiting tourists that excellent, affordable food could be served with grace and efficiency.

"Upon my return here in Puerto Princesa after being based in Manila for some time, I noticed that restaurants and food establishments catering to local and foreign tourists serve expensive food," shares Eric. "There are only a few choices and for me it is a disservice as we promote local tourism."

Seeing a window of opportunity for business and a deeper reason to return to his roots, Eric took a big gamble and invested his family savings of no less than P30,000 and started his restaurant business in 1997.

Making use of his knowledge and contacts in the construction business, he built his restaurant in the family property, more than a kilometer from the city proper. With the help of his wife and two kids, Eric sold his first batch of 1,500 sticks of chicken barbecue priced back then at P38 per stick (now its P54), which he personally prepares.

Now, both locals and tourists trek to the Haim Chicken Inato Restaurant to get a meal.

"I personally love cooking and I combined my mother's recipe with my own sweetened concoction for the chicken marinade," says Eric.

He says that difference with his marinated chicken barbecue is in perfecting the art of broiling that maintains the succulence of the chicken meat.

Now Eric's chicken inato restaurant could rival Manila's Max's and Barrio Fiesta restaurants as it also serves native seafood delicacies aside from its fast-selling chicken barbecue.

Aside from serving regular diners, Haim Chicken Restaurant also does catering. The Yayens have expanded the restaurant area.

The success of Haim Chicken Restaurant is also passed on to the families from different barangays that supplies the restaurant with different ingredients and raw materials such as the bamboo sticks, banana leaves and coconut charcoal.

As Palaweños strive to preserve the environment, Eric proudly shares that the restaurant is 90 percent waste-free as the chicken bones and other leftovers are delivered to the local organic fertilizer manufacturer.

He says that they are also striving to be a waste-free establishment and initiatives include the grinding of kitchen food wastes, which he turns to the Palawan Organic Farm for composting.

"The barbecue sticks I weave together and color, they are now improvised mats and wall hangings," shares Eric.

YAYEN

# My Office: Taking care of start-ups' office needs

"YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR BUSINESS, WE'LL take care of your office."

This, in effect, is what My Office Business Center and Virtual Office is all about. Sisters Milette Carlos and Tina Cuerva opened My Office in September 2004 when Cuerva realized that she could no longer do her consulting work at home.

"I was no longer comfortable about forwarding my clients' calls to an answering machine and giving away my cell phone number, so I brought up the idea of putting up this business to Milette," Cuerva says.

Carlos saw a big possibility in opening a virtual office to serve people who were just starting in business and could not afford office space, or, those whose businesses do not require them to have a permanent office space or a full time secretary. "Some people might just need someone to answer their calls when they're out on business meetings, and we could do that for them," Carlos says. "Depending on their instructions, we could either forward calls or take a message."

The idea of offering such a service could not have come at a better time. With no end in sight to the weekly increases in oil prices, many businesses have been forced to look for ways to cut down on operational expenses. There are businesses that have opted to cut down on the number of their employees. The trend these days, however, is to have a virtual office.

A virtual office can offer all of the benefits of a traditional serviced office without the need to physically occupy any office space. A typical provider will offer a wide range of services to pick and choose from. This ranges from the basic, such as a prestigious mailing address or telephone answering; to the more advanced, such as web hosting and meeting room for hire. In short, how you benefit from the services of this kind of provider is entirely up to you.

You need not use all of the facilities a provider has to offer. A company looking for a way to handle incoming calls may choose to use just a telephone answering service as a cheaper alternative to hiring a receptionist.

*My Office Business Center and Virtual Office is at the 5th floor, Builder's Center Building, 170 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. For queries, call 751-6739 or email info@myoffice.com.ph.*

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# Three firsts, three nights, one swaggering ad congress

MAYBE WE WILL HAVE THOSE turgid fireworks and cheesy music bed for every speaker's entrance ala-WWE Smackdown - maybe not. Maybe we will roll out the red carpet and have hired paparazzi take flashes (take note, we didn't say photos, ha-ha) a la Oscar awards night - maybe not. Whatever it is we at the Ad Congress committee intend to do, you can be sure we will let you swagger your way to the 19th Philippine Ad Congress (PAC) for four days and three nights with three firsts in the history of the PAC.

First: you will be given the liberty to choose which session to participate in as we implement simultaneous breakout sessions according to specific needs of various industries. These sessions are divided into Creative Module, Brand Module, and Media Module. The number of sessions will be doubled this year, from around 10-12 in the previous years to 20 this year. Needless to say, the number of speakers will also double from the usual 15-18 to 35.

First: Wednesday will be spent on a whole day of adrenaline-injected, unadulterated fun! Polish your clubs, wipe your balls clean (we did say fun), and practice your swing for a round of golf at the Alta Vista Golf and Country Club. If you're not a Tiger Woods fan, McDonald's challenges you to strut your stuff at the Metro Sports Badminton Center. Again, it should be fun so those who are serious, bordering on the pikon, should think twice.

First: we're giving the KBP a break from sponsoring the activities this time around. Suffice it to say we're ingenious enough to get enough funds without sacrificing on the creativity of activities.

These innovations on the content of the 19th PAC are not possible without the inputs of previous years' delegates. We took their valuable suggestions (the good, the bad, and the ugly) to help us develop specific topics, shortlist speakers, and all the in-betweens that mere mortals will never imagine.

We acknowledge the help of our speakers' respective companies for helping us create buzz at least on their corresponding topics. If there's one thing left that's keeping you from registering, it's probably the financial aspect (don't we all have the same dilemma!). Then again, you're creative, and we trust that you will find a way.

For the early registrants, practice your swagger and bring it with ya!

**RUSTAN'S IN WOMEN AND TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT**

Leading retail company Rustan's supports the 1st Philippine Summit on Women and Technology held at the Dusit Hotel. Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, president of the Philippine Daily Inquirer posed with event organizers Dittas Añonuevo-Formoso, president of the Information Technology Association of the Philippines (left) and Isabelita Palanca, chair, Women's Business Council Philippines as she was given the special Rustan's gift pack after her presentation on 'The High Touch/High Tech Leader'.

# *Advertising experts go to 19th PAC*

BE READY TO TAKE ADVERTISing in the country to greater heights as the 19th Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC) comes to full swing on Nov. 17-19, at its favorite host Cebu City.

Advertising authorities here and abroad will share lessons from their respective fields as each participant ponders on this year's theme: "Ready For the World?!".

Ayala Corp president and CEO, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala is set to keynote the first session day with "Selling Brand Philippines."

Other topics that are expected to spark interests on Day 1 are: 'Filipino Culture: Why We Show What We Show in Our Advertising,' by Emily Abrera, chairman emeritus, McCann Erikson Phils, and Peter Wallace of the Wallace Business Forum; 'Miss Understood: She's not Buying Your Ads,' by Michelle Kristula-Green, president, Leo-Burnett APac; 'Shifting Brand Paradigms : What Constitute a Strong Brand in the Age of the Empowered Consumer,' by Mike Amour, CEO-AP, Grey Global Group; 'How Challenger Brands Can Eat Big Fish' by Ding Salvador, managing consultant, Lamoiyan Corp; and 'Going Global by Being Local,' by Kitti Chaiyaporn, ECD, Publicis, Thailand and Prasoon Joshi, Reg. CD, McCann South and SE Asia.

On the morning of Day 2, participants have a choice from creative, brand and media topics. Session topics in the afternoon include: 'The Battle for the Vanishing Consumers: The Future of Media,' by Jamie Lord, marketing and business development director Mindshare AsiaPac; 'Marketing Through Entertainment,' by David Flack, MTV SVP for creative and content, APac and Gregory Ho, AXN, Apac advertising director; and 'Successfully Managing the Communication Agency of Today,' by Rupert Howell, McCann Worldgroup president, Europe, Middle-East, Africa.

PAC is as vibrant as a gathering of the best minds in the industry as it is renowned for its festivities and endless perks. Host organizations for this year's congress are the Advertising Suppliers Association of the Philippines (ASAP) and Marketing and Opinion Research Society of the Philippines (MORES).

# Advertising in Cebu: Making brands stay relevant

HOW IS ADVERTISING IN CEBU? WHO knows. There are just too many variables.

Maybe the best thing is just to talk about who we are and what we do. Maybe the idea is to measure our existence in the context of what we "automatically" achieve as practitioners of marketing communications in the regions.

What we achieve can be summed up in one word - relevance. And what we achieve ties in to who we are. We are "regionals" working in our world. We don't just put local flavor into our work, we are local flavor. We go beyond mere translation, we relate and we relate to almost three-fourths of the country's population.

Communications presumes understanding and understanding leads to relevance. We ask the question, "Is the Philippines a culturally fragmented nation?" Is this why some products rate high in Luzon and not so high in VisMin? But that is for another discussion. All we know is that our clients rate high in our world. Why? Because Cebu ad agencies help clients' brands become and stay relevant to the market.

Since we deliver relevance therefore we must be and stay relevant or else we wouldn't have lasted this long. But allow us to say that we are relevant not only to our world - the VisMin market. How so? Some forward-looking corporate giants see the point of a "culturally fragmented nation". They have always attempted to create separate messages for the Visayas and Mindanao. But these messages are just a little bit better than hit or miss since these messages are distilled and diluted somewhere else. More often than not in some office in Manila and conceived by a great mind with information supplied by an equally qualified sales person. Somehow, "lost in translation" can be an expected result from this equation.

Another scenario is a probinsyano educated and assimilated into the cosmopolitan lifestyle of Manila. Yes, he comes from the VisMin but the more important question is, is he still attuned to the VisMin? Let me cite a painful example. There's a beer commercial running on TV with four men extolling the merits of their product in Cebuano. The trouble is, they look like urbanites speaking in archaic Cebuano.

Let me put it in another perspective, how relevant would an ad be if it had four Greenbelt habitués speaking in archaic Tagalog and speaking it as if it were their daily tongue? We understand about treatment and all that but there obviously was no attempt at humor on this beer ad. Someone somewhere didn't know better. Did the ad then become relevant to the VisMin. Probably not.

Finally, the most common question thrown at Cebu ad practitioners is, do we know what we're doing? At this point, we must confess that most ad agencies in the VisMin are homegrown entities who, to put it kindly, learn as they go along. Some of them learn pretty fast and become de facto event management teams for many Manila-based agencies. But that isn't all of us.

Some of us do have more than 15 years of experience in doing work in Manila. Some of us do have degrees in marketing and understand the implications of research results. Some of us know who Neil French is although we don't necessarily agree on his opinions about women creative directors. Some of us have worked or are working on national accounts too.

The bottom line is, all of us understand whom we're communicating to. With that, we have a purpose. We can contribute in evolving the ad industry. The question is not, "Are we ready for the world?" but rather, "Are you ready for ours?".

# Teri de Sario, Joe Pizzulo at The Podium

MALL GOERS AT The Podium will have the rare opportunity of seeing musical legends Teri de Sario and Joe Pizzulo perform their timeless hits in Back 2 Back Basics, a mini concert to be held on Sunday, Nov. 13 at The Podium's 2nd level lounge area.

Teri, who is best known for the Broadway tune turned pop smash Fallin' has topped the charts many times over since that landmark hit via It Takes a Man and a Woman, Yes, I'm Ready, and Ain't Nothing Gonna Keep Me from You.

A vocalist for many bands, she collaborated with BeeGees member Barry Gibb, who was inspired to pen for Terry the now classic dance tune after hearing one of her songs on the radio. The disco tune has now also attained classic status as it is present in almost all of definitive dance collections from that era.

Recently, Teri re-recorded her hit songs from the 70s and 80s in one anthology album especially released in the Philippines. Working with renowned Filipino session musicians as Gereon Aracy, Norman Peradilla and Mike Villegas, she will delight her fans with her

renditions of all time Filipino favorites like It Might Be You, When I Fall in Love, and Boulevard in her lilting voice and speakeasy style.

Joe Pizzulo, on the other hand, is the all time familiar voice behind some of Sergio Mendes' biggest hits including Take This Love, What Do We Mean to Each Other, Never Gonna Let You Go, Let's Give This a Little More Time, and Rainbow's End.

Gifted with raspy and powerful pipes, Joe has given Manila a taste of his performance prowess early this year when he did a back to back concert with jazz superstars Kevyn Lettau and Lou Paridini at the Araneta Coliseum. Like Teri, Joe has also agreed to collaborate with a Filipina - soul siren Nina, who will be one of the special guests in Back 2 Basics.

## We're ready for the world?! Agree! or Disagree?

ARE FILIPINOS REALLY PREPARED to go global? Do we have what it takes to make a difference? The theme for the most-awaited 19th Philippine Advertising Congress revolves around these controversial questions. The Philippine Advertising Congress is the biggest nationwide assembly of advertising and media practitioners, as well as advertisers and students held every other year. For 2005, it promises to be a whole new ballgame as the Congress opens its doors to the participants' foreign counterparts who shall be talking everyone into being world-class success magnets in their fields of expertise. The Congress' formal launch last April 26, at the Greenbelt 3 Park was, literally, a black-and-white affair. Invited guests who say "Yes, we're ready for the world" were asked to dress in white and black for those who believe otherwise. The launch also unveiled the 19th PAC logo dubbed as the interrobang, designed by two-time PAC Logo Competition winner Edgar Relayson. The interrobang contains both the question mark and the exclamation point (?!), which signifies uncertainty and confidence Filipinos feel about being all set to race against the giants. For those who were not able to make their stand in person, a poll is still being conducted through the official website www.philadcongress.com. As of this writing, results show that 702 respondents (50 percent) voted ! or "Agree", while 689 respondents (50 percent) voted ? or "Disagree". The debate continues... and it will finally come to a close during the big event on Nov. 16 to 19 at the Waterfront Hotel in Lahug, Cebu City. Interested parties may call 751-8921 to 23 for further details.


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**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**
**Provision of Frame Relay and Internet Services for Year 2006**

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*, through its *2006 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P2,564,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract *for the provision of Frame Relay Service and Internet Service for Central Office covering the period January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006*, as follows:

| Lot No. | Particulars | Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Frame Relay Service for Year 2006 | 2,300,000.00 |
| 2 | Internet Service for Year 2006 | 264,000.00 |
| | TOTAL | 2,564,000.00 |

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *provision of Frame Relay Service and Internet Service for Central Office covering the period January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006*. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB).**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY-BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P5,000.00. The method of payment will be *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *November 21, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.*** at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.*

**Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City on December 9, 2005*** from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in either of the following form and amount.

| Form of Security | Required Amount in Percent of ABC |
|---|---|
| Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit | One percent (1%) |
| Bank Guarantee | One and a half percent (1.5%) |
| Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS | Two and a half percent (2.5%) |
| Any combination of the above | Proportionate to share |

**Bid opening shall be on *December 9, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.*** at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

*Procuring Entity* – *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
*Contact Persons* – *Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
*Address* – *101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*
*Telephone No.* – *(632) 712-0454*
*e-mail address* – *vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
*Fax No.* – *(632) 712-0454*
*Website* – *www.nfa.gov.ph*

**(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI - November 6 & 13, 2005)



**Republic of the Philippines**
**National Economic and Development Authority**
**Caraga Regional Office**
Nimfa Tiu Bldg., J. Rosales Ave., Butuan City
Telefax No. (085) 342-5613, (085) 341-7685
Email add: clsp_neda@caraga.bayandsl.ph

**Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid**

Contract No. FLGC-05-001

Name of Contract : Construction of Farm Level Grains Center (FLGC)
Location : Bunawan Brook, Bunawan, Agusan del Sur
Brief Description : A Grains Center compromising of Warehouse, Husk Tank, Solar Dryer and Perimeter Fence
Approved Budget For the Contract (ABC) : Five Million Eight Hundred Three Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Eight Pesos and 06/100 (Php 5,803,688.06)
Contract Duration : One Hundred Forty-Nine (149) Days

The National Economic and Development Authority, Caraga Regional Office (NEDA Caraga), through a Grant per Memorandum of Agreement with Agencia Española de Cooperacion International (AECI) for the implementation of the Caraga Food Sufficiency Project, Phase II, intends to apply the above specified amount being the Approved Budget for the Contract.

NEDA Caraga now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the construction of the Bunawan FLGC.

Bidders should possess a valid Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with the value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Document.

Applicants must submit their LOIs on or before 12:00 noon of November 21, 2005 at NEDA Caraga Regional Office and secure the Eligibility Documents there from upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Hundred Pesos (Php 300.00). Applicants shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at the NEDA Caraga Regional Office on or before 10:00 AM of November 23, 2005, where opening of Eligibility Documents will follow on the same day at 2:00 PM Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis.

NEDA Caraga will notify applicants on the result of evaluation of the Eligibility Documents on November 24, 2005 and issue Bid Documents to eligible bidders on the same date.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as prescribed in the Implementing Rules and Regulations, Part A (IRR-A), of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

Only those bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

A complete set of Bid Documents may be purchased by eligible bidders at a nonrefundable fee of Three Thousand Two Hundred Pesos (PhP 3,200.00) upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat. The Bidding Documents shall be purchased personally by the duly authorized representative of the bidders not later than 12:00 noon of December 13, 2005.

NEDA Caraga will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all eligible bidders at 9:00 AM of November 28, 2005 at NEDA Caraga Regional Office.

Bidders must submit their bids to NEDA Caraga on or before 12:00 noon of December 13, 2005. Each bid must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of a Bank Guarantee and in the amount of Eighty-Seven Thousand Fifty-Five Pesos and 32/100 (Php 87,055.32) or equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on December 13, 2005 3:00 PM at NEDA Caraga Regional Office. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend the bid opening. Only bids from eligible bidders will be opened. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. A contract will be awarded only to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder determined as such during post-qualification.

Completion of the Works is required by the end of One Hundred Forty-Nine (149) Calendar Days.

NEDA Caraga reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

**(Sgd.) JOHNNY T. LIM**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI Nov 6 & 13, 2005)

FILIPINO tourists call it home away from home.

# Cadres...

From page B10

of Shanghai's commercial Luwan district.

Tables are spread outside and inside the store, occupied by Chinese professionals and a sprinkling of Americans and Europeans—quietly sipping what we know as "barako" coffee.

Then casually came in almost a busload of Filipino tourists, feeling so at home inside the Philippine home-grown coffee firm, Coffee Figaro Co., founded and organized by multi-awarded entrepreneur Pacita "Chit" Juan.

Soon enough, one feels like we are back in Manila, with Tagalog words floating with the familiar Figaro coffee aroma.

Ros T. Juan joined a mix of Filipino and local Chinese staff members taking orders from the excited delegation from the Philippines.

Ros actually holds two positions at Figaro. She is area manager of Shanghai covering two outlets, and she is corporate communications officer for Manila and Shanghai.

## Universal appeal of menu

"We opened our very first store in Shanghai's Nanjing Xi Lu in March this year," she volunteers. "In May of this year, we opened this flagship store."

What are the chances of a homegrown coffee firm succeeding in a society known for its durable love for tea? (I have seen a lot of Chinese lugging along tea in bottles the way we bring our Coke or Pepsi, even while climbing the Great Wall of China.)

"Our clientele in Shanghai is open to the authentic Italian flavor of our coffee and light meals," Ros beams, adding that "the coffee lovers frequenting Figaro here are the same people who appreciate foreign cuisine." She reveals that the Manila and Shanghai menus are virtually the same.

There is a slight change though. She explains: "In Manila, we have a central kitchen that makes all the pastries. In Shanghai, we locally source our pastries."

Has Figaro been assimilated in Shanghai society? "We get a mix of different nationalities in the store everyday," Ros points out. Business travelers, expats and local professionals take lunch and conduct meetings at the store.

What about the tea-drinking Chinese? "We have local Chinese who come to the store at different times of the day just to enjoy coffee with friends," she reveals.

The "reading-room like design" of Figaro's second floor, featuring global and Filipino publications plus books, attracts people who have the habit of sipping coffee and reading at the same time. Sounds like home.

Home away from home for Filipinos. Are our compatriots patronizing the store? To this question, Ros broke into her sunniest dimpled smile: "Yes, a lot of Filipinos who regularly come say Figaro has become their home away from home. They bring their friends—local Chinese and foreigners—to show them a slice of home."

A lot of Filipino expats are working in multinationals doing business in Shanghai. Students learning Mandarin also abound. "It's nice to know that having a Filipino coffee shop in Shanghai has become a source of pride," she says.

The Figaro store's Filipino staff members are the best that can be offered in a competitive environment like Shanghai—not new recruits but those who have proven efficiency and commitment back home in several outlets in the Philippines.

Local Chinese staff were either referred or recruited from nearby Chinese universities, Ros reveals. "And they were trained by our top-notch Filipino staff," she smiles.

As for Ros, 23, she came to this job well prepared. She went to Shanghai Jiao Tong University for a six-month language course in Mandarin. Then she helped set up the two Figaro outlets in this bustling city of 5,800 square kilometers with a population of 18.7 million (including a "floating population" of two million).

## Homegrown jewel in a luminous city

Shanghai is a "shopper's paradise." Compared with Beijing as the "political capital," Shanghai is the "economic capital," considered the financial and trade center of China. Huge skyscrapers dot the Shanghai skyline.

Crossing the Pudong River by night, we watch these buildings become luminous like priceless jewels. A precious Filipino gem, Figaro, has chosen Shanghai for its two outlets. Chit Juan is reportedly bullish. While big Filipino businesses look at their payback period in years, the celebrated entrepreneur is reportedly thinking only in months to recover her investments—and then some .

With niece Ros at the helm (and counter) in the two Shanghai outlets, Chit Juan could be right. As for us Filipinos, Figaro at home or Figaro in Shanghai is the same "barako" coffee with world class service to boot. *Atin ito.*

# Start your own digital photo business

THE "DIGITAL REVOLUTION" ENTAILS A lot of promise for enterprising individuals and companies already engaged in related services. One of these is the digital photo printing business, which is becoming a huge market boosted by the advent of affordable camera phones and digital cameras.

Tronix Digital Imaging, a company using advanced technology in processing photo images, introduces another art innovation to the industry: the "Evo3."

The Evo3 is a digital photo-printing machine currently used by Tronix Imaging Centers in over 50 outlets all over the malls of Metro Manila and provinces such as Cavite and Pampanga.

"The machine works on a 'Do-It-Yourself' concept wherein customers can print quality pictures on their own. It also combines the capabilities of a digital mini-lab and the form of a kiosk. Thus, the Evo3 is a more affordable and a convenient way to do business," said Eric Camus, Innovatronix' Evo3 project manager.

Compared to conventional printing shops, retail prints from the Evo3 can cost as low as P6 per 3R size photo prints. The Evo3 can print high quality images from bluetooth, IR and memory cards from camera phones; DVD/CDs; Compact Flash Card, Smart Media Card, Multi Media Card, Memory Stick, Secure Digital Card, from digital cameras, among others.

"The Evo3 is only 10-20 percent of the acquisition cost of the digital mini-lab. Although it is priced as a kiosk, the material cost if only half of those existing kiosk available in the market today," added Eric.

Its digital photo printing capabilities allow high speed printing of up to 300 prints per hour, and can print multiple copies of selected pictures in one processing. The Evo3 is also "touch screen" operated and has a very user-friendly system. Its built-in LCD counter displays the number of prints made for monitoring and security purposes. One of its strongest features—the built-in LCD counter displays the number of prints made for monitoring and security purposes. It can even generate reports for the number of prints made and sales acquired for accounting purposes. *For inquiries, call 645-1592/ 645-6124/ 645-1903/ 0920-3965103; e-mail marketing@innovatronix.com or visit www.innovatronix.com.*


PNB ASSET MANAGEMENT GROUP
We manage for best value.

PUBLIC AUCTION

NOVEMBER 18, 2005 • FRIDAY • 2:00 PM • COCO PALACE HOTEL, Mahartika II-way, San Francisco, Calihan, San Pablo City, Laguna

LAGUNA

STA. ROSA

LOT 1 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 125 sqm.
Lot 34 Blk. 29 Alley Road, Golden City Subd., Phase 1-D, Dita
Minimum Bid Price : 224,000.00

STA. CRUZ

LOT 2 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 133 sqm. F.A.: 260 sqm.
Lot 1225-K, Road Lot 1225-A, Brgy Sto. Angel Norte
Minimum Bid Price : 701,000.00

SINILOAN

LOT 3 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 240 sqm. F.A.: 102 sqm.
#53 Don Felipe Subd., Brgy. Mendiola
Minimum Bid Price : 459,000.00

SAN PABLO

LOT 4 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 180 sqm. F.A.: 177 sqm.
Lot 5, Blk 2 Road Lot 1, # 260 Lake City Village, San Gregorio
Minimum Bid Price : 1,073,000.00

LOT 5 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 135 sqm.
Lot 18978 Bo. Sta Maria, Magdalena
Minimum Bid Price : 450,000.00

PILA

LOT 6 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 750.50 sqm. F.A.: 127 sqm.
Lots 1283-D & 1283-C Nia Service Road, Purok 5, Brgy. Sta Clara Sur
Minimum Bid Price : 273,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 158 sqm. F.A.: 108 sqm.
Lot 2, Blk 4 Road Lot Adelina Compound, Brgy. Sta. Clara Norte
Minimum Bid Price : 825,000.00

LOT 8 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 167 sqm. F.A.: 96 sqm.
Lot 3, Blk 4 Road Lot 3, Adelina Compound, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 749,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 75 sqm. F.A.: 150 sqm.
Lot 2639-B-7-A Relova St., Relova Road, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 706,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 80 sqm. F.A.: 30 sqm.
Lot 14 Blk. 4 Road Lot 2, Forest Park Ville Subd., Pinagbayanan
Minimum Bid Price : 191,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 120 sqm. F.A.: 55 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk. 7 Road Lot 7, Forest Park Ville Subd., Pinagbayanan
Minimum Bid Price : 303,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 80 sqm. F.A.: 50 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk. 10 Forest Park Ville, Pinagbayanan
Minimum Bid Price : 281,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 120 sqm. F.A.: 44 sqm.
Lot 3, Blk 7 Road Lot 6, Forest Park Villa, Brgy. Pinagbayanan
Minimum Bid Price : 228,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 140 sqm. F.A.: 80 sqm.
Lot 7, Blk 6 Road Lot 6, Forest Park Ville Subd., Brgy. Pinagbayanan
Minimum Bid Price : 322,000.00

LOT 15 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 160 sqm. F.A.: 60 sqm.
Lots 3 & 5, Blk 3, Road Lot 3, Forest Park Villa, Brgy. Pinagbayanan
Minimum Bid Price : 296,000.00

LOT 16 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 120 sqm. F.A.: 86 sqm.
Lot 16 Blk. 7 Road Lot 7, Forest Park Ville Subd., Pinagbayanan
Minimum Bid Price : 393,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 80 sqm. F.A.: 50 sqm.
Forest Park Ville, Pinagbayanan
Minimum Bid Price : 252,000.00

LOT 18 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 120 sqm. F.A.: 30 sqm.
Lot 11, Blk 2 Road Lot 2, Forest Park Ville Subd., Brgy. Pinagbayanan
Minimum Bid Price : 222,000.00

LOT 19 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 200 sqm.
Lot 39, Blk 5 Road Lot 4, Don Manuel Subdivision, Bulilan Norte
Minimum Bid Price : 475,000.00

LOT 20 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 209 sqm.
Lot 41, Blk 5 Road Lot 4, Don Manuel Subdivision, Bulilan Norte
Minimum Bid Price : 498,000.00

LOT 21 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 201 sqm.
Lot 40, Blk 5 Road Lot 4, Don Manuel Subdivision, Bulilan Norte
Minimum Bid Price : 478,000.00

LOT 22 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 225 sqm.
Lot 68 Blk2 Diversion Road St. Don Manuel Subd. Brgy Bulilan
Minimum Bid Price : 1,069,000.00

LOT 23 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 218 sqm.
Lot 69 Blk2 Diversion Road St. Don Manuel Subd. Brgy. Bulilan
Minimum Bid Price : 1,036,000.00

MABITAC

LOT 24 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 200 sqm. F.A.: 323 sqm.
Lot 2 Provincial Road, Brgy. Sinagtala, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 592,000.00

LOS BAÑOS

LOT 25 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 374 sqm. F.A.: 111 sqm.
L-B-1-B-2-C-1 Alley Brgy. Tuntungin
Minimum Bid Price : 848,000.00

LOT 26 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 432 sqm. F.A.: 113 sqm.
Lot 2972 & 3090 Road Lot, Sta Rita Subd., Brgy. San Antonio
Minimum Bid Price : 1,112,000.00

LOT 27 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 150 sqm.
Lot 16 Blk 5 Makiling Heights Subd. Phase 2 Brgy Lalakay
Minimum Bid Price : 570,000.00

FAMY

LOT 28 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 139 sqm. F.A.: 147 sqm.
Fernandez St., Brgy. Caballero
Minimum Bid Price : 380,000.00

CALAUAN

LOT 29 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,339 sqm. F.A.: 54 sqm.
Lot 1-B-188-B-2-F Barrio Road, # 228 Sitio Tubero, Brgy. Mabacan
Minimum Bid Price : 417,000.00

LOT 30 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 2,620 sqm.
Lot 122-B & Lot 121-I-2-1-4, Road Lot, Brgy Dayap
Minimum Bid Price : 961,000.00

CALAMBA

LOT 31 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 240 sqm. F.A.: 140 sqm.
Lot 418-X-13-A-1 Road Lot, Villa Soledad Subd., San Cristobal
Minimum Bid Price : 926,000.00

LOT 32 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 121 sqm. F.A.: 161 sqm.
Lot 1370-X-2-Q Pasic Avenue, Spring Homes Subd., Bo. Bucal
Minimum Bid Price : 1,258,000.00

CABUYAO

LOT 33 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 130 sqm. F.A.: 49 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk. 2 Subd. Road Lot 2, Villa Estefa Subd. Bo. Baclaran
Minimum Bid Price : 401,000.00

LOT 34 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 109 sqm. F.A.: 55 sqm.
Lot 2-B-2-H-8; Lot 2-B-2-H-10 Villa Estela Subd., Bo. Baclaran
Minimum Bid Price : 504,000.00

BIÑAN

LOT 35 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 150 sqm. F.A.: 190 sqm.
Lot 24 Blk. 16 Lucena St., South City Homes, Bo. Calaboso
Minimum Bid Price : 1,682,000.00

BAY

LOT 36 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 2,472 sqm. F.A.: 50 sqm.
Lot 1762-D Row, Purok 2, Brgy. Tranca
Minimum Bid Price : 859,000.00

LOT 37 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,622 sqm.
Lot 1761 Prov'L. Road, Purok 2, Brgy. Tranca
Minimum Bid Price : 500,000.00

LOT 38 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 766 sqm.
Lot 1-C-3 Row, Purok 2, Brgy. Tranca
Minimum Bid Price : 261,000.00

LOT 39 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 766 sqm.
1-C-5 RowPurok 2M Brgy Tranca
Minimum Bid Price : 313,000.00

LOT 40 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 957 sqm. F.A.: 244 sqm.
Lot 725 Brgy. Road, Purok 5
Minimum Bid Price : 1,218,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 863 sqm. F.A.: 78 sqm.
Lot 1489-20, Road Lot 1489-29, Purok Iv, Sitio Sampalucan, Brgy. Masaya
Minimum Bid Price : 286,000.00

QUEZON

TIAONG

LOT 42 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 262 sqm. F.A.: 30 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk. 3 Subdivision Road, Bo. Quipot
Minimum Bid Price : 237,000.00

LOT 43 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 10,000 sqm.
Lot 1-A-4-A Row(Right Of Way), Brgy. Lusacan
Minimum Bid Price : 1,050,000.00

SARIAYA

LOT 44 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 4,161 sqm.
Lot 2815-A-1-A Brgy Sampaloc
Minimum Bid Price : 219,000.00

SAN ANTONIO

LOT 45 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 4,658 sqm. F.A.: 61 sqm.
Lot B-3-E Hanna St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 1,669,000.00

REAL

LOT 46 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 720 sqm.
Lot 2-A-1; Rd. Lot 2-A-10, Pob. 1
Minimum Bid Price : 306,000.00

LUCENA

LOT 47 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 300 sqm.
L1 B7Jaime St. Corner Jenina St.
Minimum Bid Price : 656,000.00

LOPEZ

LOT 48 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 288 sqm.
Lot 9694, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 130,000.00

INFANTA

LOT 49 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,299 sqm.
5413 Irrigation Road, Brgy. Pulo
Minimum Bid Price : 63,000.00

LOT 50 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,508 sqm.
Lot 6552-B-4 Brgy. Bantilan
Minimum Bid Price : 306,000.00

ATIMONAN

LOT 51 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,000 sqm.
Lot 5-H Mahartika Highway, Brgy. Angeles
Minimum Bid Price : 320,000.00

LOT 52 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,000 sqm.
Lot 5-G Mahartika Highway, Brgy. Angeles
Minimum Bid Price : 320,000.00

LOT 53 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 717 sqm.
Lot 5-F Mahartika Highway, Brgy. Angeles
Minimum Bid Price : 230,000.00

LOT 54 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,000 sqm.
Lot 5-C Mahartika Highway, Brgy. Angeles
Minimum Bid Price : 320,000.00

LOT 55 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,000 sqm.
Lot 5-D Mahartika Highway, Brgy. Angeles
Minimum Bid Price : 320,000.00

LOT 56 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 717 sqm.
Lot 5-E Mahartika Highway, Brgy. Angeles
Minimum Bid Price : 230,000.00

LOT 57 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 297 sqm.
Lot 5-I, Mahartika Hway, Brgy. Angeles
Minimum Bid Price : 96,000.00

MARINDUQUE

STA. CRUZ

LOT 58 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 980 sqm. F.A.: 104 sqm.
Lot 2072 Brgy Lusok Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid Price : 373,000.00

MOGPOG

LOT 59 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 292 sqm. F.A.: 69 sqm.
Lot 9932 Brgy. Tarug
Minimum Bid Price : 322,000.00

LOT 60 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 153.15 sqm. F.A.: 169 sqm.
Lot 6630 Brgy. Magapua
Minimum Bid Price : 521,000.00

LOT 61 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 676 sqm. F.A.: 676 sqm.
Lot 4750 & 4751 Brgy. Capayang
Minimum Bid Price : 109,000.00

LOT 62 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 92 sqm. F.A.: 36 sqm.
Lot 2 Labayna St. Brgy Balanacan
Minimum Bid Price : 105,000.00

LOT 63 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 457 sqm. F.A.: 230 sqm.
Lot 9291 & 9290 Dela Paz St. Brgy. Balanacan
Minimum Bid Price : 413,000.00

LOT 64 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 533 sqm.
Lot 5 Laguo St. Brgy. Balanacan
Minimum Bid Price : 214,000.00

LOT 65 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 388 sqm.
Lot 1 Del Prado St. Brgy. Balanacan
Minimum Bid Price : 187,000.00

LOT 66 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 363 sqm.
Lot 3 Cor. Labayna St & Jasmin St., Brgy. Balanacan
Minimum Bid Price : 204,000.00

LOT 67 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 327 sqm.
Lot 9266 & 9287 Dela Paz St. Brgy. Balanacan
Minimum Bid Price : 285,000.00

LOT 68 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 111 sqm.
Lot 9325 Labayna St. Brgy. Balanacan
Minimum Bid Price : 54,000.00

LOT 69 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 124 sqm.
Lot 4 Laguio St. Brgy. Balanacan
Minimum Bid Price : 59,000.00

GASAN

LOT 70 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 868 sqm.
Lot 4835 Brgy. Bachao-Ilaya
Minimum Bid Price : 122,000.00

BUENAVISTA

LOT 71 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 300 sqm. F.A.: 96 sqm.
Lot 5155-F Brgy. Yook
Minimum Bid Price : 481,000.00

LOT 72 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,954 sqm.
Lot 5034-C Brgy. Yook
Minimum Bid Price : 166,000.00

LOT 73 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 296 sqm.
Lot 1222 Bagtingon
Minimum Bid Price : 43,000.00

LOT 74 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 405 sqm.
Lot 1129 Bagtingon
Minimum Bid Price : 62,000.00

BOAC

LOT 75 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 105 sqm. F.A.: 36 sqm.
Lot 20158 San Miguel St. Brgy. Malaas Na Bayan
Minimum Bid Price : 74,000.00

LOT 76 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 112 sqm. F.A.: 16 sqm.
Lot 22348 Brgy. Isok
Minimum Bid Price : 154,000.00

LOT 77 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 222 sqm. F.A.: 86 sqm.
Lot 2358 Brgy. Amoingon
Minimum Bid Price : 418,000.00

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ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR

PAGADIAN

LOT 1 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 446 sqm. F.A.: 263 sqm.
Lot 8657 Corner Rt Lim & Sagun St., Balangasan Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,870,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 299 sqm. F.A.: 76 sqm.
Lot 3-D-3 Subdivision Rd., Ballesteros Vill., Balangasan Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 542,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 897 sqm. F.A.: 353 sqm.
3-E, 3-G, 3-H, Subdivision Rd., Ballesteros Vill., Balangasan Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,824,000.00

LOT 4 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 784 sqm.
Lot No. 9302 Rizal Ave., Balangasan Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 3,293,000.00

LOT 5 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 400 sqm. F.A.: 102 sqm.
5821-C-2-C-1, Nat'l. H-Way, Balintawak
Minimum Bid Price : 380,000.00

LOT 6 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 3,323 sqm.
Lot No. 1-N Banali Rd., Banali
Minimum Bid Price : 1,059,000.00

LOT 7 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 492 sqm.
Lot F-13 Banali Rd., Banali
Minimum Bid Price : 327,000.00

LOT 8 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 662 sqm.
Lot No. 1-B-7 Padap Rd., City Pilot School Site, Padap Rd., Dao
Minimum Bid Price : 440,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 319 sqm. F.A.: 206 sqm.
Lot No. 9202 Along Alley, Sanson St., Gotas Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 543,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 480 sqm. F.A.: 169 sqm.
Lot Nos. F- 11 & F-12 Sto. Nino-Banali Rd., Lower Banali, Banali
Minimum Bid Price : 1,203,000.00

LOT 11 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 254 sqm.
Lot 3244-C Rizal Ave., Lumbia Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 2,058,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 300 sqm. F.A.: 244 sqm.
Lot Nos. 2 & 3, Blk. 3, Greenland Bldg., Alta Tierra Subd., Napoleon
Minimum Bid Price : 1,021,000.00

LOT 13 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 753 sqm.
Lot D-2-C-3-B-3-B Juan Alano St., Santiago St.
Minimum Bid Price : 6,326,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 191 sqm. F.A.: 168 sqm.
Lot 3078-A Anosa St., San Francisco Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,451,000.00

LOT 15 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 857 sqm.
Lot 3354 Bonifacio Street Extension, San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 729,000.00

LOT 16 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 865 sqm.
Lot 3355 Bonifacio Street Extension, San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 736,000.00

LOT 17 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 868 sqm.
Lot 3356 Bonifacio Street Extension, San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 738,000.00

LOT 18 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 865 sqm.
Lot 3357 Bonifacio Street Extension, San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 736,000.00

LOT 19 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 568 sqm.
Lot 3358 Bonifacio Street Extension, San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 387,000.00

LOT 20 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 665 sqm.
Lot 3359 Bonifacio Street Extension, San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 566,000.00

LOT 21 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 609 sqm.
Lot 3349 Bonifacio Street Extension, San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 415,000.00

LOT 22 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 708 sqm.
Lot 3348 Bonifacio Street Extension, San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 602,000.00

LOT 23 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 854 sqm.
Lot 3357Pajares Ave., Caragay Subd., Pajares Ave., San Jose Dist
Minimum Bid Price : 609,000.00

LOT 24 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 684 sqm.
Lot 3360 Bonifacio Extn., San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 582,000.00

LOT 25 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 253 sqm. F.A.: 145 sqm.
Lot 9931 Salazar St., San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,727,000.00

LOT 26 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 16,010 sqm.
Lot 17 Bonifacio St. Extension, San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 3,759,000.00

LOT 27 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,070 sqm.
Lot 2722 Corner Bonifacio & Salazar Street, San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,873,000.00

LOT 28 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 711 sqm. F.A.: 180 sqm.
Lot 2584-B Corner Broca & Aquino Street, San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,434,000.00

LOT 29 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 995 sqm.
Lot No. 3216-A-6 Sabalo St., San Jose Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,418,000.00

LOT 30 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 225 sqm.
Lot D-2-C-3-B-6-D-2-B-1 Ramon Magsaysay St., San Pedro Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,013,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 485 sqm. F.A.: 454 sqm.
Lot No. 3291 Cor. Magsaysay Ave., & Bana St., San Pedro Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,600,000.00

LOT 32 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 478 sqm. F.A.: 764 sqm.
Lot No. 3290 Cor. Magsaysay Ave., & Bana St., San Pedro Dist
Minimum Bid Price : 1,767,000.00

LOT 33 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,225 sqm.
Lot Nos D-2-C-3-B-6-E-2 Bana Compound, San Pedro Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,960,000.00

LOT 34 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 2,149 sqm.
Lot No. D-2-C-3-B-7 Ramon Magsaysay Ave., San Pedro Dist
Minimum Bid Price : 6,189,000.00

LOT 35 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 168 sqm.
12244 & D-2-C-3-B-3-A Juan Alano St., Santiago Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,764,000.00

LOT 36 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 270 sqm. F.A.: 135 sqm.
Lot Nos 21-B & 20 Pagadian Townsite Subd., Interior Portion Of Pajares Ave., Santiago Dist
Minimum Bid Price : 416,000.00

LOT 37 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 262 sqm. F.A.: 110 sqm.
Lot 263 Datoc St., Sta. Lucia Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,148,000.00

LOT 38 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 156 sqm.
Lot 963 Galas Creek, Jamisola St. Ext., Sta. Lucia Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 36,000.00

LOT 39 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 757 sqm.
Lot 3345 Alano St. Extension, Sta. Maria Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 772,000.00

LOT 40 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 314 sqm.
Lot No. 7-C Bana St., Zsnhs Site, Sta. Maria Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 478,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 392 sqm. F.A.: 84 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 4 Subdivision Rd., Purok Pagasa, Sto. Nino Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 873,000.00

LOT 42 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,070 sqm. F.A.: 203 sqm.
Lot 1-A-7 Rizal Ave., Nat'l. Highway, Tiguma
Minimum Bid Price : 1,846,000.00

LOT 43 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 594 sqm. F.A.: 96 sqm.
Lot No 10, Blk. 1 Nat'l Hi-Way, Tuburan Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 892,000.00

LOT 44 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 486 sqm. F.A.: 126 sqm.
Lot No. 67-F-2B & C Prk Lumboy, Tuburan Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 297,000.00

LOT 45 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 600 sqm. F.A.: 335 sqm.
Lot No. 63-O-12 Pajares Subd., Tuburan Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 2,907,000.00

TAMBULIG

LOT 46 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 453 sqm.
Lot 7950-B Municipal Rd., Happy Valley
Minimum Bid Price : 205,000.00

LOT 47 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 82,256 sqm.
8773 Lower Usogan
Minimum Bid Price : 432,000.00

LOT 48 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 881 sqm. F.A.: 206 sqm.
2035-E, Nat'l Highway, New Vill.
Minimum Bid Price : 235,000.00

SAN MIGUEL

LOT 49 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 775 sqm.
Lot No. 1 Blk. 30 Nat'l. Highway, Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 156,000.00

RT LIM

LOT 50 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 701 sqm. F.A.: 130 sqm.
Lot 9432, Kahpunan
Minimum Bid Price : 306,000.00

RAMON MAGSAYSAY

LOT 51 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,124 sqm.
Lot 1466-C Eastern Bobongan
Minimum Bid Price : 42,000.00

LOT 52 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 742 sqm. F.A.: 156 sqm.
Lot 1466-D Eastern Bobongan
Minimum Bid Price : 145,000.00

NAGA

LOT 53 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,900 sqm.
Lot 2851 & 2859 Aguinaldo
Minimum Bid Price : 122,000.00

MOLAVE

LOT 54 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 429 sqm. F.A.: 270 sqm.
Lot 6768 Guangan St.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,089,000.00

LOT 55 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 231 sqm. F.A.: 55 sqm.
Lot 6963-A Rrow, Legarda St.
Minimum Bid Price : 164,000.00

LOT 56 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 260 sqm. F.A.: 84 sqm.
7893-A Maburi St.
Minimum Bid Price : 369,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 519 sqm. F.A.: 55 sqm.
7250, Jose Abad Santos St., Makugihon
Minimum Bid Price : 230,000.00

LOT 58 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 530 sqm. F.A.: 125 sqm.
Lot 6449 Sda Church Site, R.Magsaysay St., Brgy. Maluloy-On
Minimum Bid Price : 272,000.00

LOT 59 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 232 sqm. F.A.: 66 sqm.
6963-B Legarda St.
Minimum Bid Price : 136,000.00

MAHAYAG

LOT 60 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,500 sqm. F.A.: 857 sqm.
Lot 1 & Lot 2 Subdivision Rd., Bliss Site
Minimum Bid Price : 796,000.00

LOT 61 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,233 sqm.
Lot 10636-A Subdivision Rd., Bliss Site
Minimum Bid Price : 276,000.00

LOT 62 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,012 sqm. F.A.: 110 sqm.
12 Cebu St., Bo. Dao
Minimum Bid Price : 222,000.00

LOT 63 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,299 sqm. F.A.: 122 sqm.
Lot 17 Equivalent To Lot 13104 Cebu St., Dao
Minimum Bid Price : 639,000.00

LOT 64 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 600 sqm. F.A.: 148 sqm.
Lot 3244 Nat'l. Highway, Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 472,000.00

LOT 65 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 599 sqm. F.A.: 70 sqm.
3972-H Salug Daku
Minimum Bid Price : 82,000.00

KUMALARANG

LOT 66 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 450 sqm. F.A.: 84 sqm.
Lot No. 181-B Dakula St.
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RUSH SALE: VV6 Condo 3BR 2TB w/Attic Nice Excellent For Newly We 0ds919-8773675

QUEZON CITY

3 BR CONDO UNIT spacious 180m² across UAP Escriva Dr. ORTIGAS CTNR w/ swimming pool & parking lot Tel- 6332236/09178332236

350T DP neg Assume Bal. 200T 962-8547 or 0916-7454240

•Teacher Village•
P3.8M
2-CAR GARAGE; 4BR;4T&B W/ MAIDS ROOM & ROOF-DECK ALL CONCRETE BANK OR IN-HOUSE FINANCING
9131737 ; 4396921 ; 4391995 9395325 ; 09273767064

SAN JUAN

NEAR GREENHILLS
BnewThse/3stry/3br/3-4tb maids 1-2 grge P3.780Mup 8903461

VARIED AREAS

Bnew w/ grg P1.26M F'view Tagaytay 09194033898

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1,2,3 BEDROOM AND PENTHOUSE AVAILABLE THRU IN HOUSE OR BANK FINANCING UP TO 10 YRS.

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VARIED AREAS

ZERO INTEREST LOW DOWN ORTIGAS CTR PASIG GLOBAL CITY FORT BONIFACIO EDSA MANDALUYONG MANILA
0919-4053902 - 0922-8060346

LAGUNA

Malayan Plaza Best Location Podium Rdy Dec 09177914366

### APARTMENT

MARIKINA

Duplex/Apt w/ 2 car garage 180sqm Paris St. Provident Vill 09178558345 Bebel

### LOT

LAS PINAS

BF Int'l 222&306m² 3BR 8754095

Las Pinas Royale 271sqm 7K/sqm 914-1360 0918-9013568 Rush Sale

MAKATI

GUADALUPE NUEVO 3 LOTS 762 SQM CALL 09195998039

QUEZON CITY

300/600/1200m² 9178863211

GloriaIV Subd nr Visayas Ave 444m² 455-4123/456-6854

GRAND VILLAS Top Row w/view back ATENEO LOTS hse & lots avble 426-5650 929-1832 • 0919-8212235

★KATIPUNAN Ext Resl lot nr UP Ateneo 204 to 408m² P8,500/m² 0918-9235216★

Rush 300SQM ROOSEVELT PARKWAY QC 733-77-67/69/73

RIZAL

562m² Loc Brgy Saperya Binagonan • 0917-8986809

BATANGAS

Anilao Beach Titled 246m² •Reggie 0917-5342480 • 8234827 no agent

LAGUNA

★STA ROSA - BINAN★
NR. LA SALLE & MALL 120m²-UP 4,460m² 96T D/P 4T/mo. 6609372

URGENT SALE
335sqm good res'l/com'l lot Nat'l Hway, Bucal, Calamba City Morning sun, clean title. 9k/sqm 0918 6168100

### MEMORIAL LOT

2prem. lots Holy Cross Nova. 9328970 / 09194033898

Heritage Park II 634-1212

### FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

2 Farms LOTS nr Clark at Angeles Exit alng North Xpresway for agribus r resdl lots - 9.6has @ P3.2M/ha & 7has @P2.8M/ha 500mtrs aprt. If bought together @ P2.8M/ha only. Txt or Call 906-2730247.Direct Buyers Only

### FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

BATANGAS

6.2-HA FARM LOT
P80/m² Rosario, Batangas 24km from Lipa City
Please Call Jimmy Delos Reyes
• 0919-5881110

### CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

Canyonwoods 110K 910-0296

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

MAKATI

Space & Unit 4 Rent loc. at 1749 N. Garcia St Makati Call 890-2830

### HOUSE

PASAY

New Renovated Big House •885-7267 0917-5342027•

QUEZON CITY

Nr Ever Comnwlth nice Thse 3BR2TB Grge 09182002212

### CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

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BNEW BONI RIDGE D'FORT 2BR/2CG DIMPLES 952-7066

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Near The Fort 14K
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Mkt 2Br 1Tb P12.5 Studio P9T Nice Tel/Prkg/Secu 890-6374

Unit 410 Palm Twr A St. Paul St nr P. Tamo SAV 114m² 3BR Sala 2TB w/tel 25T/mo w/ parking 8909778 • 09178441747

MANILA

40 sq m Burgundy condo unit infront of DLSU, Taft, Mla Cory - 0920 9603724

CONDO NR UST 09155835289

QUEZON CITY

BNew 1BR w/ AC Xanland In Front of Ateneo 09209705070

QC CONDO 2 BR W/ PARKING 9266653/09179955426

### APARTMENT

MAKATI

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MANDALUYONG

499 San Joaquin St., Mand. 6000 & 9000 5348102

QUEZON CITY

2BR P8,500 Call 712-9361

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WAREHOUSE SPACES FOR LEASE
400m² & up 3306951-55 Tess

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AT 55,000/SQ. METER IN
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MOBILE 0917-8229013
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## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### FOR LEASE

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2.STORE SPACES/ WAREHOUSES
Dasmarinas, Cavite
Alabang-Zapote Rd., Las Piñas
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Bauan, Batangas
ALL RENTAL - NEGOTIABLE
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ARIEL/DING/REXIE/BERNIE

### WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

1800m² New Meycauayan Tollgate Nlex 726-4046

FOR SALE / LEASE
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El Grande Inn 8257524 BF Pque P200I Tel8275345

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Kamias Rd 3.6T Nice 4368050

Mkt. Condo M/F P1.8-5.2 max w /Prkg FlexiTerm 897-9417

Windsor Inn Maceda St nr 7-11 Dimasalang, Manila 7118679, 7836781(24hrs)

### BEDSPACE

Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974697

### BUSINESS RENTAL

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Dental Clinic For Sale/Lease Rm224 Atrium Bldg Makati •811-4071/823-6047•

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200 sq. m.
Scout Rallos cor. T. Morato, Q. C.
Chris 810-7968

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## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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Cel No. 0917-5397225
Phoebe Mallorca
Tel. No. 637-2503 • 637-4628

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

### CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

3BDR 2TB Prkg Garden GA Tch VIII Ph4 400-9407

Condo Nr LaSalle St. Scho H-way w/ Parking 400-9407

RENAISSANCE 3000 2BR SF MINA 09177643188 / 6366898 STEPHEN 09274907599 SALLY 09157843128 / 8963036

## OTHER REAL ESTATE

### REALTORS/SEMINAR

Buy/Sell/Transfer 8754095

## TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

### CARS

04 L200 Strada Mitsubishi 09216117659

HONDA

'93 Civic ESi Silver 188T Neg. 747-7382. 0915-2758834

HYUNDAI

BNEW TUCSON 4x2 AT 938K 2UNITS LEFT 09178433438 09224247524

ISUZU

2003 ISUZU CROSSWIND XUV DIESEL A/T WHITE 16TKMS 1ST OWNED P750T NEG 0919-3826923

'97 Local Tropper Gas 440Thou • 0922-5369721

MERCEDES

230c ld. skinls 190T 9297702

MB95 S320L 1st OWNER 33T KMS TOP CONDITION 0917-8009101. 899-1904

MITSUBISHI

'97 Galant SS, A/T, Owner driven, Color blue, mnkinis. See to appreciate. Call tel. 4537061 or 0917-323-7131

NISSAN

95 LEC SENTRA 1ST OWNER 110T 5319206 09178991286

Nov 00 Nissan Exalta STA 45K KMs, P375T, SunRoof, 0917-8993108

TOYOTA

02 LAND CRUISER VXR V8 A1 2.9M neg 09162101188

'95 Corolla 160T 9124551 09287162615 Maribel

RAV 4 ASSUME BALANCE '04 MODEL NEW LOOK 350T CALL JUN DEVERA 09176266374

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Optra 2004 gold A/T, xlnt, 1st owner • still under warranty, very well maintained, like new, plate end 3. C 2 appreciate. Call 0917887023 4

Pajero Trooper Largo Surf Delica Serena Town-Lite Hi Ace Safari Estima Elf Canter 4-6w etc finance T-in 9120647 / 09178215832

## TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

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Cheap Van 9330311;9348411

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- female, 18-25 years old
- with experience,
- fluent in English

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My Angels Kitchen
57 Connecticut St.
Northeast Greenhills,
San Juan
Tel. 744-1018

**WANTED**

**OPTOMETRIST**

Apply at:
- IOS Mktg. Corp.
- 647 P Paterno St. Quiapo

Or Email your resumé at:
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### CAR LOAN

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% w/out taking car 7262780

1% w/out taking car 5315577

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1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/o taking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o taking car 7723810/12

2% w/oTaking Car 8956630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

## GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

### FURNITURE/ FIXTURES

VINTAGE NARRA FURNITURES
CALL 5348272 • 09167433047

### GARAGE SALE

GRGE SALE NOV. 13, 8-5PM
Brgy Mariana Court New Jersey & 4th St New Manila

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Sanko Dental XRay Mobile 55th
09175331014 5347717

Dental U/C Osada FM 65TH GC
09175331014 Good Cndtn.

### MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

### PETS

Excint Dog Sch 0919-2050952

## PCCI

Special General Meeting of Voting Members
Nov. 21, 2005 2:00 PM
Sulo Hotel, Quezon City
Deadline for Submission of Proxies 5:00 P.M.
November 15, 2005
at the PCCI Office
ADDENDUM TO AGENDA
RATIFICATION OF AMENDMENTS on the By-Laws
ALL REGULAR MEMBERS
HAD BEEN PROPERLY NOTIFIED on the FORTHCOMING SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

## PCCI

347th & 348th DOG SHOWS
ALL-BREEDS DOG SHOWS
Tiendesitas en
Frontera Verde
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. Cor.
C-5 Ortigas, Pasig City
November 12 & 13, 2005
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
MR. KIM CRYSELL (NZ)
MS. GISELA LESH (AUST)
STRICTLY NO ADDENDUM
SHOW SCHEDULE
Sunday, November 13, 2005
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Non-Sporting & Herding Grp
12:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Working Group
SPONSORS:
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*If you want your career to go places, join our branch and get ready to reach the top of the corporate ladder.*

## OPERATIONS GROUP

### BUILDING ADMINISTRATION MANAGER / OFFICER

*The successful candidate will be responsible for the over-all supervision of the operation and maintenance of all electrical and mechanical equipment used in air conditioning, plumbing, substation, generating sets, sanitation and building facilities. He will also manage the maintenance of cleanliness and attractive appearance of the common areas and in leading the maintenance personnel and operations in accordance with the Company standards.*

male; not over 35 years old; graduate of Business Administration, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering; with 2 years work experience in property management and building administration in the same capacity; able to lead a group, prioritize work load, and meet deadlines

### CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

*The successful candidate will be responsible in ensuring prompt and efficient customer service and over-all supervision of personnel in the assigned department of a branch.*

female; not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4 year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in sales and marketing, able to carry out prompt and efficient customer service; with pleasing personality

### SELLING MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

*The successful candidate will be responsible for the planning, controlling, directing, selling activities and personnel for the attainment of sales targets.*

male/female; not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in retail operations, food chain or in sales in the same capacity

### COUNTER & CHECKING MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

*The ideal candidate will be responsible for the planning, controlling and directing counter and checking operations and functions such as cashiering and credit card transaction in the assigned department of a branch.*

female; not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in cashiering operations, familiar with credit card and cash transactions; responsible for over-all supervision of personnel in the department

### WAREHOUSE MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

*The qualified candidate will be responsible for the assigned branch warehouse in terms of proper planning, controlling and directing operations/functions of a group.*

male; not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; with extensive experience in all aspects of warehousing operations in a retail business; able to lead and motivate staff, and foster a team working environment

### CUSTOMER RELATIONS SERVICE MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

*The ideal candidate will be responsible for the planning, promulgation and implementation of the over-all security program of the Company.*

male, must be 5'5 ½" & female, 5'2" in height; not over 35 years old; graduate of Criminology or any 4-year business course; with 1 year related work experience in handling security matters and personnel; with basic knowledge in crisis management and human behavior; with keen investigation skills, detail oriented and physically fit; flexible to different work assignments and willing to be assigned to provincial branches, and work on extended hours

## SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP

### TREASURY MANAGER

female; not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; with 2 years supervisory experience in accounting, funds management or treasury functions; familiar with banking operations & Central Bank procedures

### ACCOUNTING MANAGER / OFFICER

must be a Certified Public Accountant; female, not over 35 years old; with 2 to 5 years of managerial experience in all accounting operations; has the ability to work in a fast paced environment; with strong computer skills and skills to oversee and manage monthly and quarterly budget and vacancies analysis

### ADVERTISING & PROMOTION COORDINATOR

*The qualified candidate will be handling the allotted budget for the above-the-line and below-the-line advertising requirements and will also coordinate with the merchandising group, ad agencies and other suppliers to support operations sales.*

female; graduate of any 4-year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in advertising; with good communication and coordinating skills; highly assertive and can implement creative solutions; must be computer literate

### ENGINEER

**• Mechanical • Civil • Electrical**

male/female; not over 30 years old; preferably licensed; with 1 year work experience in construction projects or mall operations

### DESIGN OFFICER

female; not over 28 years old; graduate of Architecture; preferably licensed; knowledgeable in AutoCADD application; with 1 year work experience in site inspection and supervision; proficient in drafting, designing and estimates

### VISUAL DISPLAY OFFICER

male/female; graduate of Fine Arts, or any 4-year related course; with at least 1 year related experience in retail, design or fashion is preferred; current knowledge of RTW, Mens' and Home Fashions is a plus; strong organization, planning, and prioritizing skills; flexible to be scheduled in support of retail hours

### TRAINING OFFICER / TRAINER

*The ideal candidate will be primarily responsible for the development of training programs and the carry out of approved ones with the end view of providing assistance in the skills and attitude enhancement of employees.*

male/female; not over 32 years old; graduate of Education, Psychology, Behavioral Science or any 4-year business course; with 2 years related work experience; knowledgeable in conducting training needs analysis, designing, implementing and evaluating of training programs and activities related to behavior and skill modification of employees

### NURSE

*The successful candidate will be responsible for assisting the Company Physician in providing medical services in the assigned branch.*

female; not over 32 years old; must be a Registered Nurse; with 2 years experience in industrial or hospital setup; able to establish rapport and deal with all levels of the organization; willing to work on shift schedules or extended hours

### IT ASSOCIATE

male; not over 28 years old; graduate of Computer Science / Engineering; with 1 to 2 years experience in repair, trouble shooting and maintenance of cash registers

### OFFICE ASSISTANT

**(Human Resources • Accounting • Treasury • Customer Service)**

female; not over 25 years old; graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, Communication Arts, Business Management, Accountancy, Computer Science or any 4-year business course; Personable, fast learner and willing to work on extended hours

**Candidates should have the following competencies:**

- ✓ excellent written and oral communication skills
- ✓ can relate well to all levels of organization
- ✓ proficient in computer software applications
- ✓ team-player, goal-oriented and able to work under pressure
- ✓ willing to grow with the organization
- ✓ willing to work on weekends and holidays

*Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. at:*

*SM Sta. Rosa Department Store*
*Recruitment Office*
*Km. 35, National Highway, Barangay San Antonio, Biñan, Laguna*
*(former SSS Office, infront of Pavilion Mall)*

*Or*

*Visit our Website : www.sm-shoemart.com*
*E-mail : Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com*

*(Please bring resumé, 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background, SSS Number / SSS Employment History print out and original and photocopy of Transcript of Records and Diploma)*

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November 14, 16, 18, 2005 (Monday, Wednesday, Friday)
(10:00 am, 2:00 pm & 5:00 pm)
November 20, 2005 (Sunday) 1:00 pm & 4:00 pm
GROUND FLOOR, OCTAGON BUILDING,
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Contact Nos.

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Urgent LICENSE PHARMACIST MEDTECH 9522670 Helen San Juan Polyclinic

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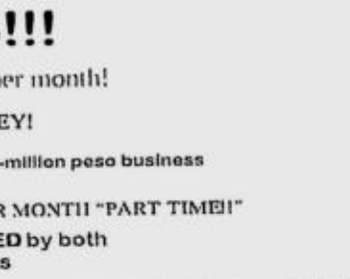


**MANILA BRANCH**
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 836 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
TEL. NO.: 527-3342 / 522-4406
*Contact Persons: Babes, Connie & Greg*

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### MALE/FEMALE

Urgent Requirement!
ACCOUNTANTS
Male / Female 21-35 years old; Single; willing to be assigned in Provincial and Metro Manila Globalflex Corporation
Apply at 112 Kamuning Road Quezon City or Call 925-0660 ; 925-7621 Look for Ms Olga

**CALL POEA**
24-HOUR HOTLINES
**722-1144 or 722-1155**

## COHANTA ENERGY

A U.S. company engaged in worldwide development, management, ownership and operation of power generation stations is in need of:

# PERFORMANCE ENGINEER

Responsible for plant performance optimization, monitoring and engineering test functions of the plant. Responsible for coal and fuel oil monitoring, record and control, and periodic fuel stock physical count or survey. Analyze discrepancies between fuel records and surveys. Develop and formulate short-and long-range enhancement plans for plant capital improvements.

**Qualifications:**

- Licensed Mechanical or Electrical Engineer
- Minimum of five (5) years experience in power plant engineering, process controls, and plant performance.
- Knowledge in coal-fired power plant principles of performance engineering. Familiar with ASME performance testing codes.
- Familiar with ASTM procedures on coal sampling and analysis, and procedures on coal pile surveying.
- Knowledge on coal-fired power plant operation, including the coal handling facilities/equipment.
- Practical experience in computer software applications.

An attractive remuneration package and training opportunities await the successful candidates. Interested applicants may send their full resumés with ID picture, salary history and college transcript of records to the following address not later than November 23, 2005:

**CPOI - HRD**
Unit 1706-1709, Robinsons Equitable Tower
ADB Ave. cor. Poveda St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

# WORK WITH THE LEADER!

*We Value Quality in our Products, Service and People.*
*That's why we look for those who value the opportunity to be part of Crown Asia, awarded as the*

*2004 Top Real Estate Company of the Year and*
*2005 Most Outstanding Residential Real Estate Company*

## LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKERS / MARKETING NETWORKS

*Who are we looking for?*

- With existing organization of at least 10 active sales representatives
- With vehicle for mobilization
- From real estate and/or marketing-related industries (i.e. car, insurance, pharmaceuticals, direct selling)
- Highly motivated and driven groups
- With good entrepreneurial skills
- With specialization on the following areas / locations: Quezon City, Antipolo, Sucat, Alabang, Cavite, Laguna

*What we provide our marketing networks...*

- Assured availability of real estate inventories with unmatched quality
- Office support
- Tripping vehicles
- Sales generating activities
- Sales leads / prospects
- Sales training
- Above industry remuneration package: BIG COMMISSIONS & CASH INCENTIVES
- Travel incentives (local and abroad)

## SALES CONSULTANTS / AGENTS

- College graduate of any course, fresh graduates are welcome
- With good communication skills and pleasing personality
- Sales experience from marketing related industries an advantage
- BIG COMMISSIONS & CASH INCENTIVES await qualified applicants

*Please indicate network's area of specialization.*
*Only qualified applicants will be entertained*
*Send your resume at the following:*
*Email: crownasiarecruitment@yahoo.com*
*Mobile: 0917-8044991*
*Ground Floor, Starmall Complex*
*EDSA cor. Shaw Blvd, Mandaluyong City 1550*

Crown Asia
*Your Home of Choice*

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development – NCR
*DR. JOSE N. RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL HOSPITAL*
Tala, Caloocan City
Telefax Tel. : 962-98-84

November 11, 2005

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

The Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital invites responsible and duly accredited suppliers from DOH/CHD-NCR to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of the following items:

A. Medical Supplies
B. Laboratory Supplies
C. Janitorial Supplies
D. Construction, Plumbing, Electrical and Transport/ Motorpool Supplies
E. Computers and Printer
F. Water Tank
G. A. Drugs and Medicines
B. Drugs and Medicines (Pay Pharmacy)
H. Foodstuffs

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES:

| | |
|---|---|
| Issuance of Bid Documents | : November 24 to December 5, 2005 8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. |
| Pre-bid Conference | : Items A-H – November 23, 2005, (10:00 A.M.) |
| Checking of Eligibility Requirements | : November 24-December 05, 2005 (8:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.) |

Submission & Opening of Bids
Items: A. December 6, 2005 (9:30 A.M.)
B. December 6, 2005 (1:30 P.M.)
C. December 6, 2005 (2:30 P.M.)
D. December 7, 2005 (9:30 A.M.)
E. December 7, 2005 (1:30 P.M.)
F. December 7, 2005 (2:30 P.M.)
G. A and B December 8, 2005 (9:30 A.M.)
H. December 8, 2005 (1:30 P.M.)

Prospective bidders may secure bid proposal form from the BAC Secretariat, Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.000).

All activities shall be held at the Training Room, Dr. Jose N Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, Tala, Caloocan City, unless announced otherwise.

Each bid must be accompanied by a bidder's bond in the form of a certified check, manager's check, or GSIS bond in an amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid. The Approved Budget Cost is stated on the bid documents.

For further inquiries, interested bidders may contact the BAC Secretariat or call Telephone No. 962-9884 or 962-9886.

Dr. JNRMH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to notice of award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidders of the grounds for the hospital's action.

(Sgd.) EDGARDO SA. JAVILLONAR, MD, MHA.
Chief of Sanitarium III

(PDI–Nov. 13 & 18, 2005)

## FREELANCE WEB AND GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Advertising company looking for a freelance Website or Graphic Designer. Must know extensive Frontpage or equivalent, Flash, Photoshop, Illustrator. Must have creative design skills. Related College degree/certificate preferred but not required. E-Mail resumé to:

OCtargetadvertising@cox.net
or JonelRoberto@yahoo.com

*Broadband access required for updown and loading files.*

# WHOLESALING/FRANCHISING

of
* **SAN MIGUEL PRODUCTS** * Purefoods, Magnolia, Monterey, Ginebra San Miguel, Gran Matador * **COCA-COLA PRODUCTS** * like Coke, Sprite, Hi-C, * **CARTOON NETWORK** * Disney, Snoopy, Barbie, Hotwheels, * **TITA'S TOCINO, MEGA SARDINES, HOMI, SAUCY-MI, CARICA, EXTREME MAGIC SING, TIMEX, MOIS, GIORDANO, MICHAEL ANDRE, BOSTON** and MORE Branded Items,

START RIGHT AWAY with **P7,000** and earn

**P50,000.00 to P100,000.00 a Month!**

PART-TIME! We responded to this AD, now we are earning P50,000/mo.

TO SEE IS TO BELIEVE!

**Awarded as No. 1 Company**
By National Consumers Quality & People's Choice Award
**Attend FREE ENTREPRENEURSHIP ORIENTATION**
**November 15, 17 & 19, 2005 (Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday)**
**10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. sharp**
**20th Floor, Octagon Bldg. (Back of Megamall)**
**San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center**
Bring this AD to avail discounts listed above

## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that in view of the expiration of the franchise of CENTRAL LUZON FOODS CORPORATION (CLFC) effective November 01, 2005, all transactions entered into by CLFC in connection with BURGER MACHINE are no longer valid and of no effect. All services and merchandising system such as trademark, service mark, proprietary marks, patent, copyright and all goodwill connected therewith granted to CLFC by virtue of the said franchise have been severed.

**BURGER MACHINE HOLDINGS CORP.**

(PDI – November 13, 2005)

## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that FRANCISCO E. MORALES, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with NEW JERENO HARDWARE & ELECTRICAL SUPPLY effective September 20, 2005.

Any transaction entered into or made through him shall not be honored by NEW JERENO HARDWARE & ELECTRICAL SUPPLY

(PDI-Nov. 13, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
**MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY**
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor. 11th & 13th Avenues,
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-123

RE : Application for Amendment of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) for Permanent Addition of ship/fleet pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
KINSWELL SHIPPING LINES, INC.,
Applicant.
x----------x

**ORDER**

This refers for the Application for Amendment of Public Convenience (CPC) for a Permanent Addition of Fleet to effect:

1. For Liner Operation

| Name of Ship | Service/s offered/to be offered |
|---|---|
| MV KINS CEBU | Carriage of Passengers only |

Route to be served

| Cebu City – Ubay, Bohol – Bato, Leyte & vice versa | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DEPARTURE | | | ARRIVAL | | |
| Port | Day | Time | Port | Day | Time |
| Cebu City | Daily | 8:00 AM | Ubay, Bohol | Daily | 10:45 AM |
| Ubay, Bohol | Daily | 11:15 AM | Bato, Leyte | Daily | 12:45 PM |
| Bato, Leyte | Daily | 2:30 PM | Ubay, Bohol | Daily | 4:00 PM |
| Ubay, Bohol | Daily | 4:30 PM | Cebu City | Daily | 7:15 PM |

Schedule of Rates (Per Link)

| Passage Rates | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| LINKS | | Type of Accommodation/Class | Rate |
| From | To | | |
| Cebu City | Ubay, Bohol | Non-Aircon | 340.00 |
| | | Aircon | 350.00 |
| Ubay, Bohol | Bato, Leyte | Non-Aircon | 240.00 |
| | | Aircon | 250.00 |
| Cebu City | Bato, Leyte | Non-Aircon | 380.00 |
| | | Aircon | 400.00 |

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships Applicant's premises, passengers terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on Nov. 15, 2005 at 2:00 P.M. at the Hearing Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office, Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg., cor. 11th and 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE). Afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision.

WITNESS, the Honorable Administrator, VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR. this 11th day of November 2005 at Cebu City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) GLENN G. CABANEZ
Regional Director

(PDI – November 13, 2005)

PNOC
The Energy Company

**PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY**
**PRIVATIZATION OF PNOC SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT CORPORATION**

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has authorized the privatization of PNOC Shipping and Transport Corporation (PSTC), company engaged in the business of shipping, tankering, lighterage, barging, towing and transport/shipment of goods, chattels, petroleum and other products, marine and maritime industry in general.

PSTC is now inviting prospective Financial Advisors to advise, guide and assist in the design, planning, preparation and implementation of the program for the privatization of PNOC-Shipping and Transport Corporation.

Prospective financial advisors who meet all of the following criteria may secure application forms for pre-qualification:

- has Philippine and Asian experience as financial advisor to governments on privatizations;
- has knowledge and experience in Asian and Philippine shipping and maritime sector;
- if a foreign firm, with office in the Philippines or within Asia and willing to deploy a dedicated team of shipping/maritime experts in the country;

Qualified parties may secure pre-qualification forms starting on November 14, 2005 during regular office hours from PNOC-Shipping and Transport Corporation Privatization Committee Secretariat at the 1st Floor, Building 6 Energy Center Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila. Deadline for submission of accomplished forms to the same office will be on December 12, 2005 at 12:00 noon.

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Celia R. Tagaro (PNOC-Shipping and Transport Corporation Privatization Committee Secretariat) at No. (632) 8401442 and Tel./Fax no. (632)8401441.

The PNOC Shipping and Transport Corporation (PSTC) reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process or to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO M. DEL FONSO**
Director, PNOC and
Chairman, PNOC-Shipping
and Transport Corporation
Privatization Committee

(PDI-Nov. 13, 2005)

PAGCOR Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

ITB NO.: 08-95-2005

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Name of Project | : | Supply and Delivery of Decorative Mosaic Tiles (Total Floor Area: 810 sq. m.) |
| Approved Budget | : | Six Million Pesos ( P 6,000,000.00) |
| Source of Fund | : | Internally Funded |

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila., Tel. No. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance **from November 11, 2005 to December 2, 2005** at the BAC Secretariat Unit, PPD-Corporate upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00)***. In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretariat.

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

| *Activities* | *Schedule* |
|---|---|
| Pre-Bid Conference | November 22, 2005 ( 2 pm ) |
| Submission of Bids | December 5, 2005 ( 2 pm ) |
| Opening of Bids | December 5, 2005 ( 2 pm onwards ) |

PAGCOR reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government (R.A. 9184, Sec. 41).

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd.) RAFAEL A. FRANCISCO
Chairperson, BAC 3

(PDI-Nov. 13 & 20, 2005)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operation and Maintenance
Tel. No. (02) 5206776; (02) 9814595 / 9814539 / 9814576 / 9814577/ 9814578
LOC. 4002; (049) 4114500 LOC. 4002

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

AD NO. TRANSCO 2005-12B

The National Transmission Corporation, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/ distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder requirements:

| SCHEDULE | PR NUMBER | ITEM DESCRIPTION | QUANTITY | APPROVED BUDGET |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| E1 | QUE-05-312 | OVERHEAD GROUND WIRE | 60 KM | P 7,800,000.00 |
| E2 | CAV-05-396 | GENERATOR SET, 82 KVA | 1 SET | 1,300,000.00 |
| | | GENERATOR SET, 15 KVA | 2 SETS | 1,700,000.00 |
| E3 | 3PSMDS-05-114 | PORTABLE DISSOLVED GAS ANALYZER | 1SET | 5,500,000.00 |
| E4 | BAT-05-201 | CONNECTOR, WEDGE TYPE & 2 OTHERS | 2150 PCS. | 4,950,000.00 |
| E5 | BAT-05-184 | ULTRAVIOLET CORONA IMAGER | 1 SET | 9,648,000.00 |
| E6 | 3LAG-05-12042 | DISCONNECT SWITCH | 4 SETS | 19,400,000.00 |
| E7 | PSMDN-05-134 | POWER QUALITY MONITOR AND DISTURBANCE ANALYZER | 2 SETS | 9,200,000.00 |

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking similar projects with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed items for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

| Activities | Date/Time (E1 - E7) |
|---|---|
| 1. Issuance of Bid Documents | Nov. 14 – Dec. 5, 2005 |
| 2. Pre-Bid Conference | November 21, 2005 9:30AM |
| 3. Opening of Bids | December 06, 2005 8:30AM |
| 4. Deadline for Submission of Bids at the OAVP Conference Room | December 06, 2005 8:30AM |

Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 minimum, or 0.01% of the ABC whichever is higher per bidding schedule to the National Transmission Corporation Cashier. Complete set of Bid Documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat/MMS, Administration Division, SLO&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna.

The National Transmission Corporation assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The National Transmission Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality or defect therein, and to award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

TRANSCO-South Luzon's other requirements are posted at the DBM Website www.procurementservice.net.

(Sgd.) R. B. Vergara
Chairman, BAC

(PDI Nov 13 2005)

## Nestlé Philippines, Inc.

Notice is given that Official Receipts Nos. 2665901 – 2665950 has been reported lost since 26 October 2005. Any transaction entered into using these documents shall not be honored by the Company.

(PDI – November 13, 20 & 27, 2005)

**Send your resumé instantly.**

JOB Market
www.jobmarketonline.com

## ERRATUM

In the advertisement of **Land Transportation Franchising & Regulatory Board (LTFRB)**, Invitation to apply for eligibility and to bid for the procurement of security services published in this paper November 9, 2005 **last day of submission of bids should have been December 6, 2005** instead of November 6, 2005 as published.

Our apologies.

(PDI-Nov. 13, 2005)

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION**
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
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SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 522-4406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

# OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

## CONCHITA DIONISIO SALVATERA

Beloved wife of Deceased Judge Honorio Salvatera
of Claveria, Cagayan

Born – Pulilan, Bulacan,
September 19, 1920 – November 12, 2005

Children – **Cesong** & **Bonet**, **Nory** & **Lillian**, **Eva** & **Joe**, **Fely** & **Pol**, **Norma**, **Nestor** (Deceased), **Monica**, **Bernadette**, **Marites-Ed**, **Walter-Rose**.

Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City
(Superior Room) Mass every night
at 7:30 P.M. Tel. No. 749-3806 to 11 Local 139.

Interment will be on Thursday,
November 17, 2005, Loyola Memorial
Park, Marikina

Funeraria Paz – 11:00 a.m. (Blessing & Eulogy)
St. Peter Church –
Commonwealth Ave.,
Quezon City, 1:00 p.m. Mass

## EDITHA MEÑES DE LA CRUZ

*Peacefully joined her Creator*
*on November 11, 2005 at the age of 68.*

She is survived by her husband, **SERVILLANO LICHAUCO DE LA CRUZ**; daughter **REGINA**; sister **ROSALINDA M. MOTA**; brothers **SERAFIN, JR.** and **RODOLFO**; in-laws; nephews, nieces and other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish, Magallanes, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, November 17, 2005 at the Crisanto Lichauco Mausoleum, North Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

## HONORATO GIL BUHAY, JR.

December 15, 1945 – November 11, 2005

He is survived by his wife **Clarissa Guerrero-Buhay**, children **Ma. Clarissa** and **Renato T. Salud**, **Antonio** and **Johanna Cacho-Buhay**, **Miguel** and **Nina Ongpin-Buhay**, his grandchildren **Seve**, **Lean** and **Diego**, brothers and sisters **Teresita**, **Erlinda**, **Ludmilla**, **Edgardo**, **Ma. Lourdes** and **Renato**.

His remains lie in state at Santuario de San Antonio, Capilla de San Francisco.

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 15, 2005 at the Santuario de San Antonio Crypt, after the 4:00 p.m. Mass.

*So Lovingly Remembered*
*So Sadly Missed*

*Our Beloved*

## *Gaudencio Embuscado Antonino*

*On the day of the thirty-eight Anniversary*
*Of his Birth to Eternal Life*
*November 13, 1967*

*HIS WIFE, **MAGNOLIA** TOGETHER WITH THEIR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT GRANDCHILDREN REQUEST RELATIVES, FRIENDS AND PIOUS READERS TO PRAY FOR THE ETERNAL REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.*

*Masses at :*

| | |
|---|---|
| ANTONINO MAUSOLEUM<br>Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Parañaque | 11:00 a.m. |
| MT. CARMEL SHRINE | 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. |
| SAN AGUSTIN PARISH<br>*Jaen, Nueva Ecija* | 6:00 a.m. |
| ST. BENEDICT, *Alabang* | 7:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. |
| ST. JAMES, *Alabang* | 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. |
| ST. JEROME EMILIANI | 6:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. |

*An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.*

*Always caring...*
**INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

**OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:**
● Copy of Death Certificate
● Any identification document (I.D.)

**THE COLUMBARY GARDEN VAULTS**
Visayas Ave., Q.C., San Agustin Seminary
Good Price & Good Location...
Carol 09178491952 / 723-2975 (office hours)
4 Urns in 1 Vault

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

On the Second Death Anniversary
of the late
(Ret.) Brig. Gen.

## Jose V. Sembrano

**PMA Class 1953**
August 20, 1931 - November 13, 2003

Quietly remembered everyday,
Still loved, still missed in everyway.

From your loving **wife**, **Nena**; children **Jiji** & **Hermann**, **Alex** & **Chula**, **Grace** & **Dins**; grandchildren **Tin**, **Cali**, **Leanna**, **Cj**, **Bianca**, **Mariel** & **Miguel**

Masses will be offered today at the following:

| | |
|---|---|
| Sanctuario de San Jose | 6:15 AM |
| Christ the King Parish | 7:00 AM |
| Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish | 7:30 AM |
| St. Paul the Apostle Parish | 10:00 AM |

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

## Message of Thanks

We, the surviving husband,
**Atty. Pablo L. R. Ronquillo**,
nephews, nieces, relatives, grandchildren and great grandchildren of the late

## *Exuperancia F. Ronquillo*

*who passed away on October 25, 2005*

wish to thank all those who offered prayers and masses, sent flowers, extended assistance and condoled with us during our trying moment of bereavement.

We miss her encouraging and affectionate presence yet find solace in the thought that she is now resting in the embrace of our Almighty Father.

Masses for her soul will be offered on her birthday, November 14, 2005, in the following churches:

| Parish | Time |
|---|---|
| St. Laurence Parish<br>Panitan, Capiz | 6:00 AM |
| Metropolitan Cathedral<br>City of San Fernando, Pampanga | 6:15 AM |
| Holy Family Parish<br>San Andres Bukid | 6:30 AM |
| St. Anthony de Padua Parish | 6:00 AM |
| Our Lady of Remedies Parish | 7:00 AM |
| St. Vincent de Paul Parish | 6:00 AM |
| San Agustin Church | 6:30 AM |
| Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish | 7:30 AM |

Our Beloved Papang
Retired Chief of Police

## Salvador P. Defensor

of Mina, Iloilo

*Peacefully joined our Lord*
*on November 9, 2005 at the age of 82.*
*In St. Paul's Hospital, Iloilo City.*

His wife **Celia**,
children & grandchildren,
brother & sister,
request your prayers
for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence at Defensor St., Mina, Iloilo.

Interment will be on Saturday,
19 November 2005,
at Mina Catholic Cemetery
after the 9 a.m. Mass.

# Sunday BIZ

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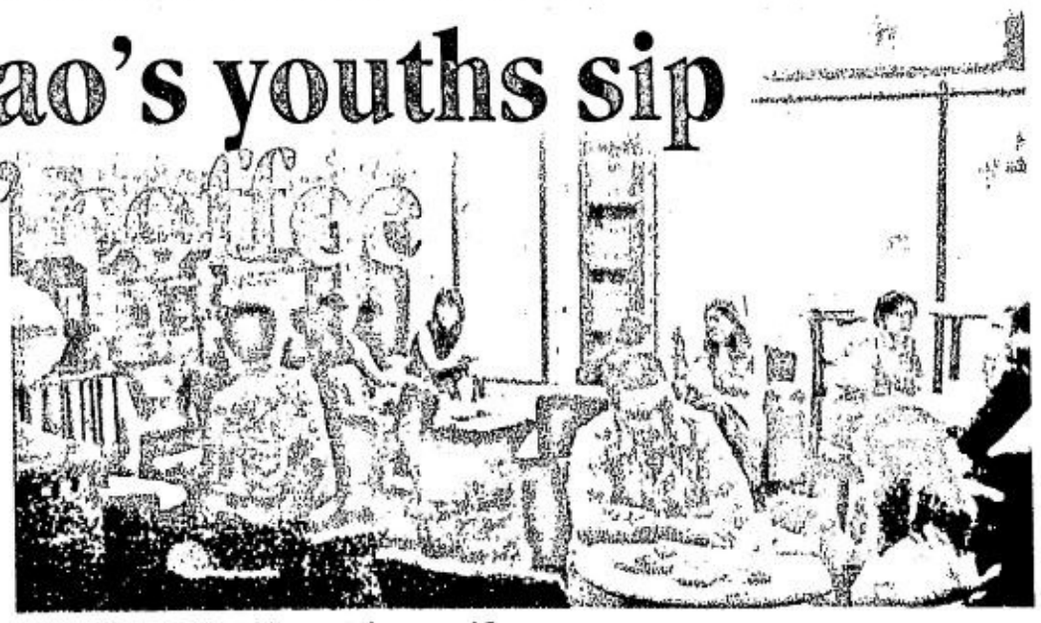
## Cadres, Mao's youths sip 'barako' coffee

By Dante M. Velasco

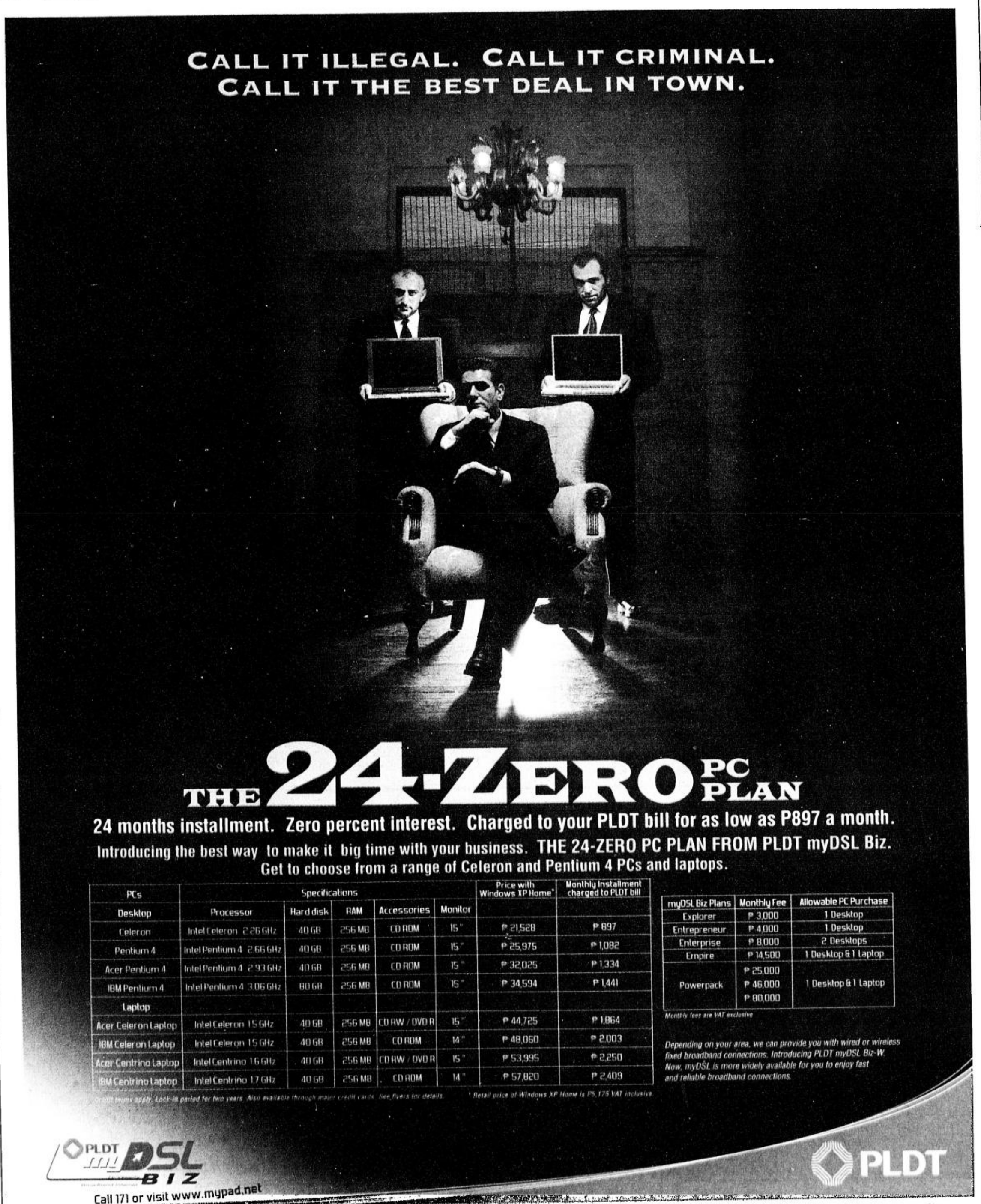
SHANGHAI, CHINA—AT THE HEART OF THIS city, known as "the Oriental Paris," is a Filipino coffee company that, back in the Philippines, is giving Starbucks and other American coffee outlets a run for their money.

The familiar logo and logotype spelling out "Figaro" is luminous by night and prominent by day at the entrance of its flagship store at Jin Lin Tian Di (near Xintiandi), at the heart

CADRES/ B5



READING ROOM ambience at the second floor



POSTCARD-PRETTY
El Nido /G2

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

# Halfway to heaven

## The St. Paul de Chartres' Vigil House is a home for nuns run by nuns

OLD HABITS are hard to break. Retired nuns sing hymns during their morning breaktime.

By Dulce Festin-Baybay
*Contributor*

RETIRED ST. PAUL NUNS are well on their way to heaven in their spanking new retirement home, the SPC Vigil House. It is where they retire peacefully, quietly spend their last days on earth, or recuperate from illness.

As the name suggests, the Vigil House is also where wakes are held for deceased nuns before they are brought to their final resting place, the Garden of Peace in Our Lady of Chartres Convent in Antipolo.

Located on a 2.6-hectare at 22 km, Manila East Road in Taytay, Rizal, the SPC Vigil House is an imposing edifice. A massive stone water fountain at the lobby awes visitors. The lot was partly donated by Oscar Lopez, chair Lopez Group Foundation, with the help of Rev. James B. Reuter, SJ.

The new Vigil House is one of the many projects of Sr. Mary Magdalen Torres, known to many SPCM Paulinians as the stern but loving high school principal in the 1980s, and now based in Jerusalem.

"The minute I set foot inside the Vigil House and saw the smiling faces of the nuns, beautiful and happy memories of my school days filled my mind," said Bing Santos-Padilla.

"There was an overwhelming sense of belonging, [as I] remembered that these nuns played a big part in my formative years. When I saw the wheelchair-bound and bedridden nuns, my heart just went out to them," she said.

The P100-million four-story main building took one year to build. Another six months were spent for the finishing touches.

Young architect Edison Lacsa designed the building, making sure the place was as comfortable as possible for its senior residents.

### Accessible

He made the chapel easily accessible from the nuns' rooms and had the SPC logo etched on glass doors or shaped in metal on ramps in the main areas. In the funeral parlor, a family room has its own bathroom and sleeping quarters for relatives of the deceased.

Visiting priests have their own separate rooms and there are two elevators for the wheelchair-bound.

It is a home for nuns run by nuns. Aging and ailing nuns are given rooms from 72 private units; the bedridden occupy the infirmary and semi-bedridden wards or four intensive care unit (ICU) beds.

Younger nuns run manage the place.

Head administrator and Superior is Sr. Mary Philip Galeno, who knows every nook and cranny of the entire Vigil House and all its occupants and staff. Sr. Marie Pierre Mara Arton is head of nursing services, assisted by Sr. Enriqueta Paderes. Sr. Amelita Sambilay is resident dietician.

Nuns work in the chapel and kitchen or make liquid dishwashing soap, rosaries, scarves, folded paper objects, and throw pillows for sale. The house has a regular staff of almost 40 people.

"I was teary eyed when I saw the nuns in the infirmary praying the rosary. It was difficult to hold back my tears when I saw the bedridden nuns. [Something] made me move toward the nun at the end of the room. Her face had a certain glow that reminded me of the Virgin Mary. I forgot her name but I remembered her from my grade school days at St. Paul College Pasig canteen. May all the nuns have many more years ahead of them," said Suebee Santiago-Prejula.

### Enterprising

Prejula was impressed that the retired nuns were enterprising, making their own liquid soap which would make good Christmas gifts. She volunteered to accept orders and pick them up from the Vigil House.

Joy Yuzon said: "The Infirmary ward is airy and well-lit and does not [smell like a] hospital."

"Since the oxygen supply is piped in, tanks are not visible and the place is not at all hospital-like in appearance," she added.

The Vigil House has tie-ups with several hospitals and schools like Philippine General Hospital, University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center and St. Paul University, Manila. They send doctors, nursing students, therapists, and interns regularly. Emergency cases are brought to the nearby Manila East Medical Center.

### First wake

Two months after it opened, the Vigil House had one wake, for Sr. Concepcion Guidote, who passed away at the age of 102. She is a relative of Marites-Guidote-Aguirre, chair of the SPUM Alumnae Homecoming.

HALFWAY/ C2

# Cuna brings 'fragrance' of Philippines to In

AN INDONESIAN model shows off Cuna's oversized hat of Dancing Lady orchids and nito vines complemented by a moss vest.

FILIPINO STYLIST RACHY CUNA WAS ONE of 16 featured floral designers at the recent 22nd World Flower Council summit in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Theme of the event was "Fragrance of the Archipelago."

The invited designers showcased their work at the Beauty Parades that featured floral fashion at the ballroom of the Mulia Hotel.

Cuna presented "Water Bearer," dressing up his model in a moss vest and hat, both from Filipino handicraft exporter Renato P. Vidal. The hat was decorated with yellow oncidium and twigs.

Cuna, who also did the country design arrangement of the Philippines, acknowledged the host country with his "Tribute to Batik," a 15-ft work using a tall red resin vase with batik prints from exporter Al Caronan, which the designer brought all the way to the Indonesian capital.

THE PHILIPPINE delegation of Efren Chatto, Belen G. Bactad, Pearl B. Banaag, Nikki Chatto, Susan Gonzales, Roma Rivera and Rachy Z. Cuna with other foreign participants

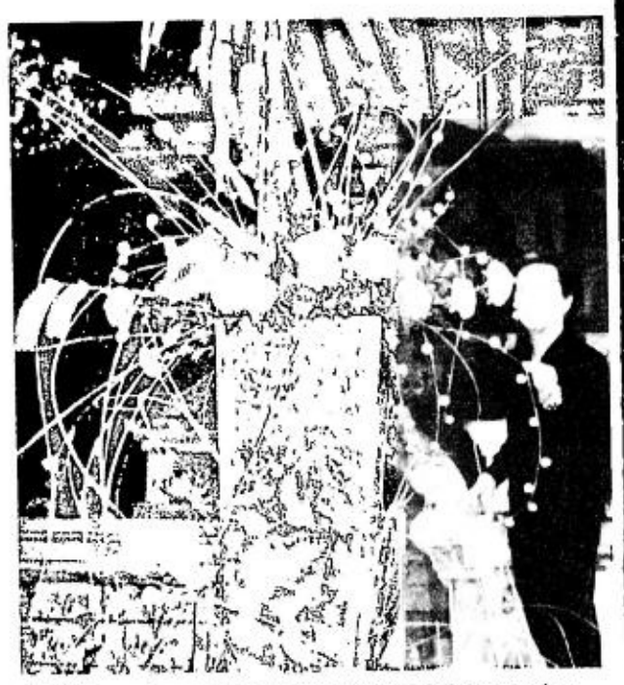
Theme of the country presentation was "The Enchanting Beauty of Indonesian Nature." Council member-countries did floral designs representing their image of the host country.

Cuna's arrangement featured lotus, mums, rattlesnake (calathea blooms), and strips of rattan (also brought from the Philippines).

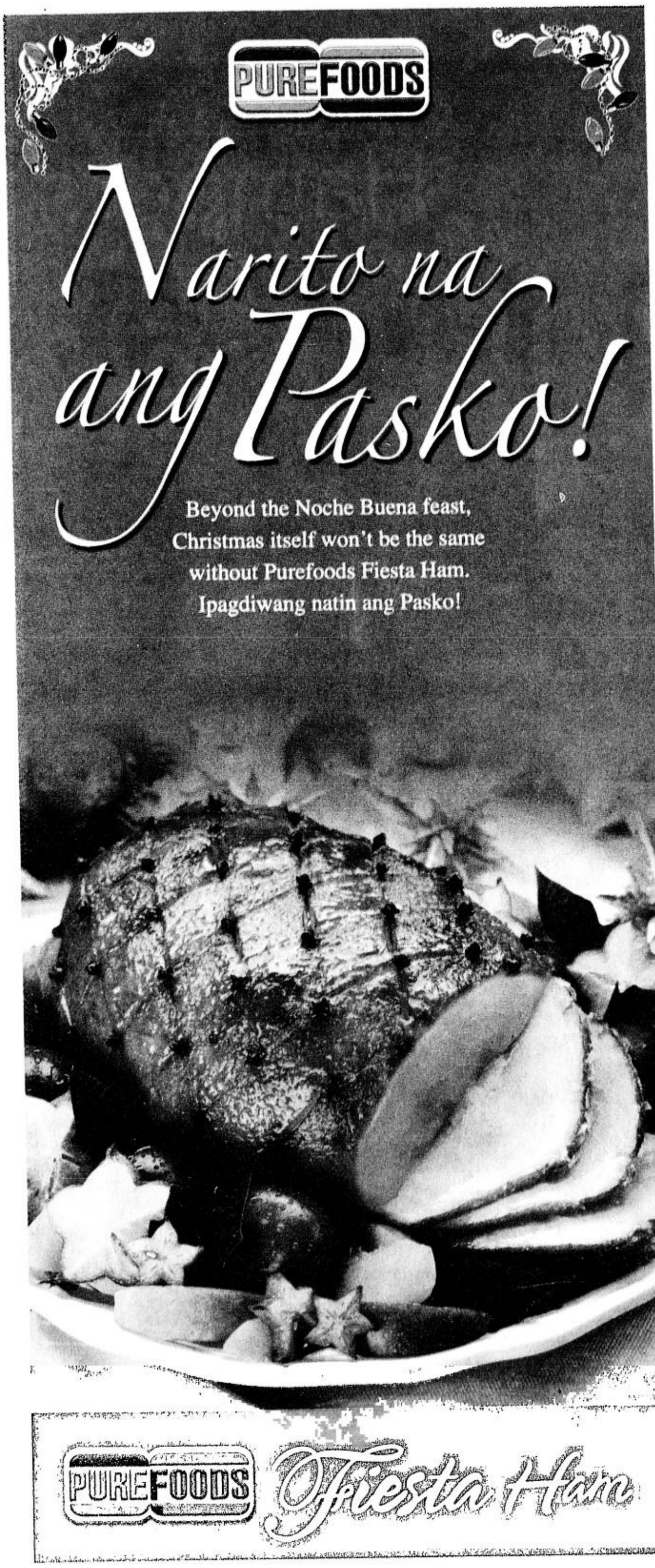
Heading the Philippine delegation to this year's summit was Efren Chatto, president of the World Flower Council Philippines, who was accompanied by his wife Nikki. Other Philippine delegates were Belen Bactad Pearl Banaag, Roma Rivera and Susan Gonzales.

The World Flower Council was founded in Japan in 1983 by the late Juzaburo Sekiyo. With Dean White as the current international chair, the council, whose mission is to promote world peace through flowers, now has chapters in 26 countries including the Philippines.

The Jakarta summit, headed by Els Tiwar, chapter leader of World Flower Council Indonesia, was attended by over 250 delegates.



CUNA pays homage to batik with this 15-ft creation using a red resin vase.



SPC nuns led by Sr. Mary Philip (third from right) welcome representatives of St. Paul Manila, high school batch 1981: (from left) Bing Santos-Padilla, Joy Yuzon, Suebee Santiago-Prejula, Cecile Ventura and Rita Festin.

# Halfway to heaven

From page C1

Two centenarians are currently in the infirmary. Majority of the bedridden nuns are in their 90s.

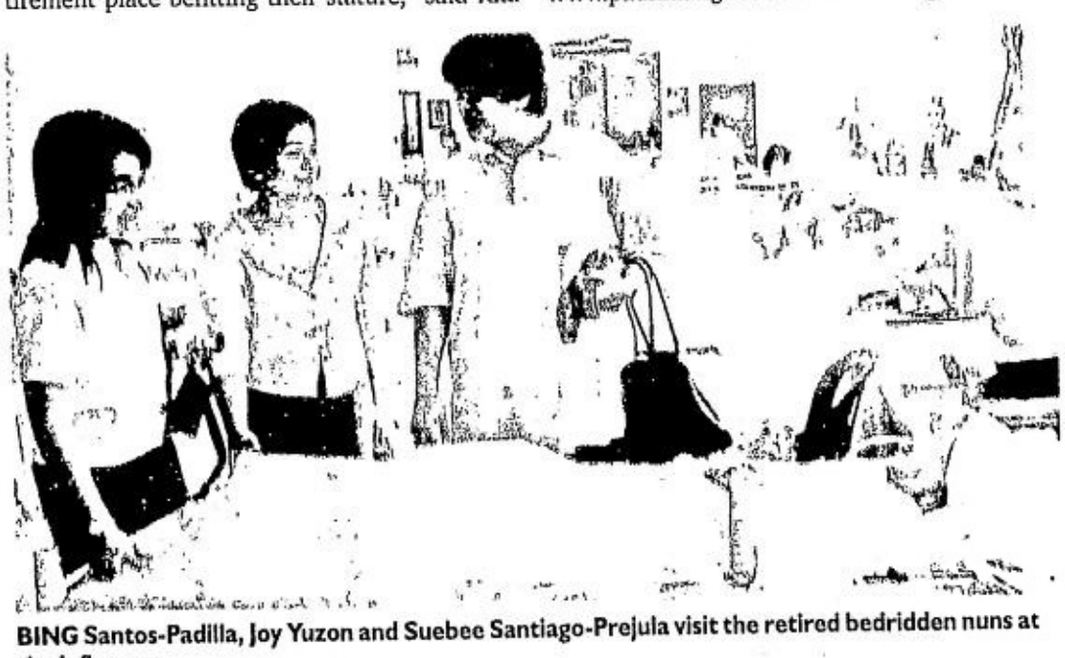
Among the nuns from the Manila campus are Sr. Caritas de St. Paul Sevilla, who was recovering from a metal implant, and Sr. Carmelita Cruz, who was recovering from a heart ailment. Both are still teaching.

The Vigil House needs a monthly budget of P1 million for salaries, utilities, food, medicines, and other household expenses, said Cecile Ventura. The Manila and Pasig campuses are the Vigil House's most consistent donors.

"I feel happy that the nuns have a very nice retirement place befitting their stature," said Rita Festin. Padilla jokingly asked if it would also accept Paulinian graduates with five children like her.

"I know... we made the right choice in making the Vigil House our beneficiary... we wouldn't be what we are today without them," Padilla said. "It's now our turn to help them and make their remaining years as comfortable as possible."

The Vigil House is the beneficiary of all fundraising activities of SPCM High School Class 1981, host of the Alumnae Homecoming on Jan. 29, 2006. Donations in cash or in kind are welcome. Call 6609736 or fax 6609737. Visit SPC Vigil House, 22 km Manila East Road, Brgy. Dolores, Taytay, Rizal. For overseas donations, visit www.paulinianglobalfoundation.org.



BING Santos-Padilla, Joy Yuzon and Suebee Santiago-Prejula visit the retired bedridden nuns at the Infirmary.

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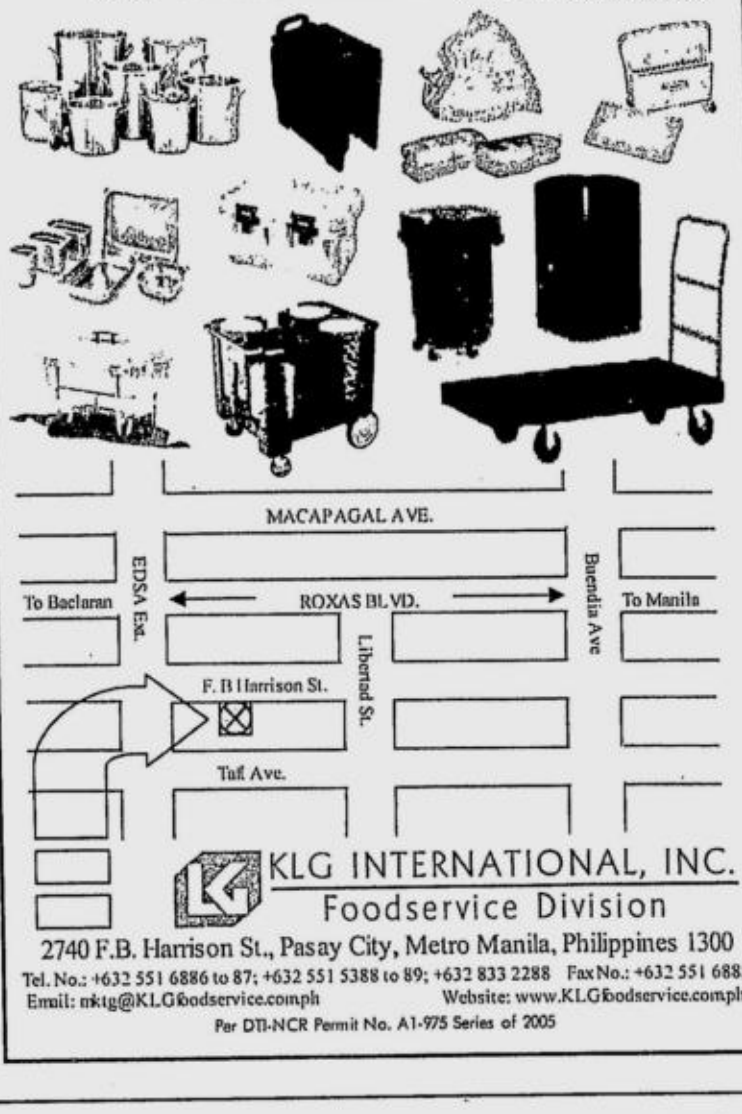


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Green tea has been proven to be good for those people trying to lose or maintain their weight because of its thermogenic effect. It initiates faster metabolism causing the body to burn fat at a faster rate. Just imagine, while you're cooling down, your fat is getting burned up!

Made from natural green tea leaves, C2 Lite is a healthier alternative to other diet beverages.

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C2 Green Tea Lite is available at a very reasonable price. The suggested retail price of the 355mL bottle is only P14. *Stay Cool! Stay Lite! With new C2 Green Tea Lite!*

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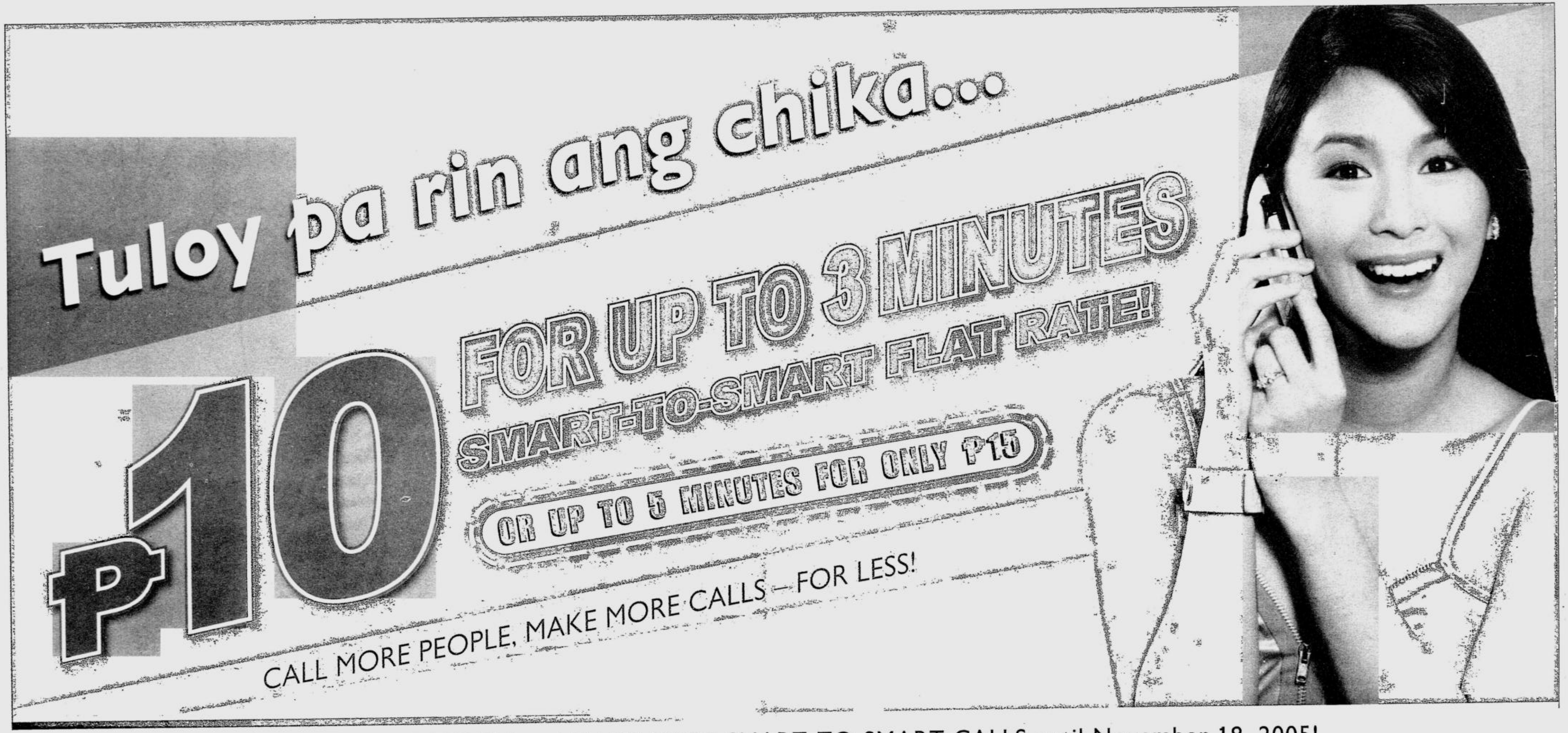
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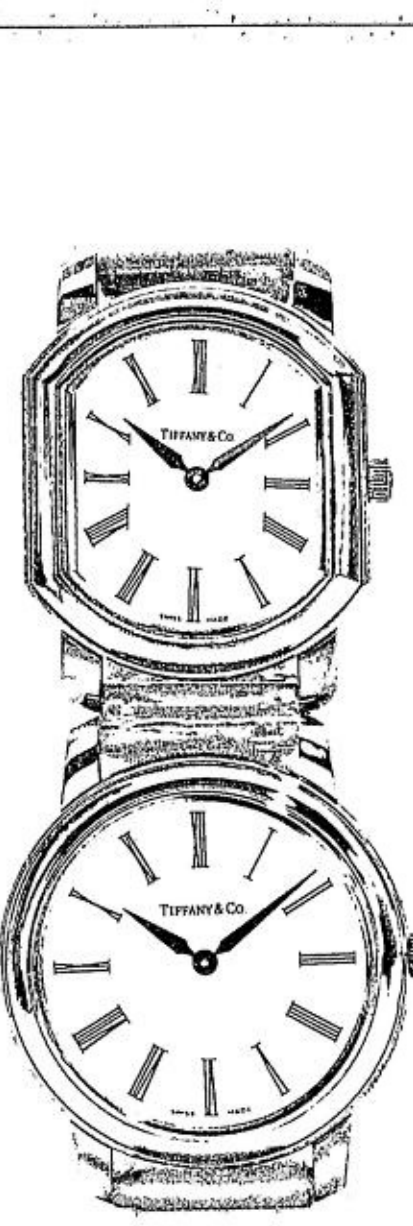
### ISIP-CARBUNGCO

**Alexander Santos Isip**, son of **Francisco** and **Alicia Isip**, will marry former Mutya ng Pilipinas winner **Darlene Zimmer Carbungco**, daughter of **Armando** and **Josephine Carbungco**, 3 p.m., Nov. 18, at Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park. Reception follows at Shangri-La Makati. The bride will wear a white halter fully-beaded lace top and draping A-line skirt with detachable train, designed and executed by **Eddie Baddeo**. The entourage's gowns in deep purple, lavender and yellow are also by Baddeo. **Eric Maningat** of Studio 546 will do the hair and makeup.

### TAMBOONG-BALUTE

**Pablo "Chief" Tamboong Jr.**, son of **Consejo** and **Pablo Sr. Tamboong**, will marry **Maileen Balute**, daughter of **Sonia** and **Manny Bal Balute** on Nov. 17. The bride will wear white draping bodice gown in frosted silk and circular bias ball skirt made of layers and layers of illusion tulle, designed and executed by **Eddie Baddeo**. **Bambbi Fuentes** will do the hair and makeup.

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The Virgin is venerated in Mexico, where most people are Catholics

# Mother of all humankind

PURELY PERSONAL

*Josephine Darang*

OUR RECENT PILGRIMAGE to the Our Lady of Guadalupe shrine in Mexico City was an awesome experience, especially for those of us who were there for the first time.

Our group, organized by Adam's Travel, was composed of 13 pilgrims coming from Manila and the United States.

From Manila were Annie Lukban, our tour leader; Evelyn Lazaro Santos, Sonia Aquino, Virginia Espineli, Maria Sumulong Moy and Cita Coronel, Dr. Evelyn Policarpio and myself.

From the United States were Liza Cacanando, Dalisay Novicio, Nilda Salvaleon, and Emerita Palillo. The two groups met in Los Angeles and flew together to Mexico City where we were met by Christian Carbajal, the tall and good-looking tour guide from International Holiday Travel.

Christian brought us to the new Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe for the 9 a.m. Mass on Oct. 18. The famous icon of the Virgin was on the right side of the altar. I could not stop whispering prayers to her, especially for those in the Philippines who asked me to pray for them.

After the Mass, we went behind the altar and took the conveyor that brought us closer to the Virgin. We marveled at how the *tilma* withstood the wear and tear of 474 years, beginning in 1531 when the portrait of the Virgin was miraculously painted on the *tilma* of Juan Diego and revealed to Mexico Bishop Zumarraga who dropped to his knees in awe and reverence.

In Mexico City, where 90 percent of the population are Roman Catholics, the people venerate the Virgin, offering her flowers and waiting patiently for a chance to get closer to her and pray for her intercession.

On the second day we were there, thousands waited in the square to attend Mass. They carried banners and flowers. Our tour guide said they came by bus or walked from their towns in a procession.

The United Mexican States has 31 states and a total population of 106 million—all devoted to the Virgin of Guadalupe. Some 20 million from all over the world visit every year.

The religiosity of the Mexicans, especially the men, is apparent in the way they pray during Mass. I saw a crippled man with flowers in his hands walking slowly to the conveyor. His love for the Virgin was amazing.

The call of the Virgin of Guadalupe has resounded through the centuries and people are responding by visiting her shine. Pope John Paul II first came in 1979 when the new Basilica was finished. He was back in 2002 when he canonized Juan Diego, the Indian peasant who was told in 1531 on Tepeyac Hill that the Virgin was the "Mother of God" and reminded (in Aztec language): "Am I not here who is your mother?"

She reassured humankind of her protection: "Know for certain that I am the perfect and perpetual Virgin Mary, mother of the true God... Here I will show and offer all my love, my compassion, my help and protection to the people. I am your merciful mother, the mother of all who love me, of those who cry to me, of those who have confidence in me. Here I will hear their weeping and their sorrows... their necessities and misfortunes... listen and let it penetrate you who are here... Do not be troubled or weighed down with grief. Do not fear any illness or vexation, anxiety or pain. Am I not here who am your mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not your fountain of life? Are you not in the folds of my mantle? In the crossing of my arms? Is there anything else you need.

"Am I not here who is your mother?"

Although the Virgin of Guadalupe spoke to Juan Diego in his native language, the conversation has been translated into Spanish, the official language in Mexico.

The famous reminder to Juan Diego: "*No estoy yo aqui, que soy tu Madre?*" (Am I not here who who is your mother?" is inscribed on the façade of the basilica.

As we walked up Tepeyac Hill, we tried to imagine how Juan Diego must have felt when he spoke to the mother of God.

## RP's patroness

Our Lady of Guadalupe is the second patroness of the Philippines, the first being Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception.

A more than life-size icon of the Guadalupe is hung to the right of the Quiapo Church altar. The icon is a gift from the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Her feast day on Dec. 12 is celebrated grandly in churches where she is enthroned.

One of these churches is in Villadolid, Negros Occidental, a 45-minute drive from Bacolod. Another is in Makati. Fort Santiago has a small chapel.

## Mexican men's devotion

Annie Lukban, our tour leader, observed the Mexican men's devotion to the Virgin. She noticed how they prayed, responding to the prayers during Mass in a loud and fervent voice. She saw a man carrying his child as he walked on his knees to the Basilica from the patio.

We who were there wished more Filipinos could visit Mexico to see the original icon of the Virgin.

Adam's Travel hopes to organize another trip in May, 2006. Call 5211651/38 or text 0922-5180906.

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## SUNDAY CROSSWORD

**PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo** — TALES

**ACROSS**
1 Car-stopping devices
10 The first instruction
17 — de plume (pen name)
20 1976 sci-fi film
21 Stuff in a spray can
22 — roll (lucky)
23 Two dozen veggies?
25 "Morning Edition" network
26 "— Tac Dough"
27 Composer Bacharach
28 "— my wit's end!"
30 Patisserie product
33 Gab
36 Works for one's veggie?
41 Jazzman Shaw
43 The FBI is part of it
45 Direct a glance at
46 "Believe — not!"
47 "Darn it!"
48 Couches
50 Bathwater additives
51 Cotton unit
52 One putting a belt on a veggie?
56 Sent via cyberspace
58 Knight's wife
59 Sephias and Sportages, e.g.
60 Neighbor of Thailand
61 Dry gulch
64 Counted every last veggie?
70 Bartlett and Bosc
71 Scot's refusal
72 CPR specialist
73 Part of NRA
74 Vacation spent enjoying a veggie?
79 Shake a leg
80 "Daddy" has three
81 Ireland, literarily
82 Ice melter
83 Clique
87 Veggie stuck to one's ceiling?
92 Lacquered metalware
93 Morales of "Rapa Nui"
95 — Gay (WWII bomber)
96 Gymnast Korbut
97 Whip sound
98 Song verse
101 "Holy moly!"
102 Sacred song
103 Veggie seen through the keyhole?
106 "Damn Yankees" siren
108 Lab charge
109 In a faint way
110 Appeal
112 Back in time
114 Gobbled
115 Veggie with less flaws?
125 La Brea goo
126 Rest briefly
127 Sovereign prince's domain
128 Overhead trains
129 Exam issuers
130 Cry to a captor

**DOWN**
1 Three-filling sandwich
2 See 49-Down
3 Tree-ring indication
4 German philosopher
5 Tempt
6 Prepare mentally, with "up"
7 Canine cry
8 Couple
9 Brush off
10 Some kind of nerve
11 — alla Scala (Milan opera house)
12 Muff up
13 — favor (please, to Pedro)
14 Bear, in Baja
15 Negating word
16 Cow in milk ads
17 Gaseous element, e.g.
18 Out of jail conditionally
19 Having suffered for one's beliefs
24 Feel sorrow over
29 Court excuse
30 Golf standards
31 Baghdad site
32 Famous last words
34 Pueblo brick
35 Soybean food
37 Jordanian queen
38 Enjoy the slopes
39 Minimally
40 Universe
42 Duncan of dance
44 Ari's second wife
48 Fool
49 With 2-Down, vagrants' district
53 Ties the knot
54 PC-to-PC hookup
55 Suffix of superlatives
57 Usually
60 Abundant in calcium oxide
61 Showery mo.
62 Early 1900s car
63 Crash into
64 Morse code sounds
65 Definition
66 Cafes
67 Young newt
68 Building addition
69 Informal shirt
71 Really must
75 Least stale
76 Tommy — Jones
77 Fury
78 Flood barrier
79 Joke response
82 Any of five popes
83 "You're on!"
84 Inessential
85 People making assertions
86 Drive off
87 Tie-in
88 Christmas carol
89 Norway's patron saint
90 Eye rudely
91 Star's status
94 Motorists' org.
99 Stun gun wielder
100 Ginsberg and Tate
102 Asian temple
104 Lawman Earp
105 Eternally, in verse
107 Wood-shaping machine
111 In the distance
113 Burden
116 West of "Diamond Lil"
117 Approves
118 Like a prof. emeritus
119 Summer, in Somme
120 Byronic "before"
121 Half of D
122 Hard water
123 Resistance unit
124 "Bill —, the Science Guy"

answer on page F3

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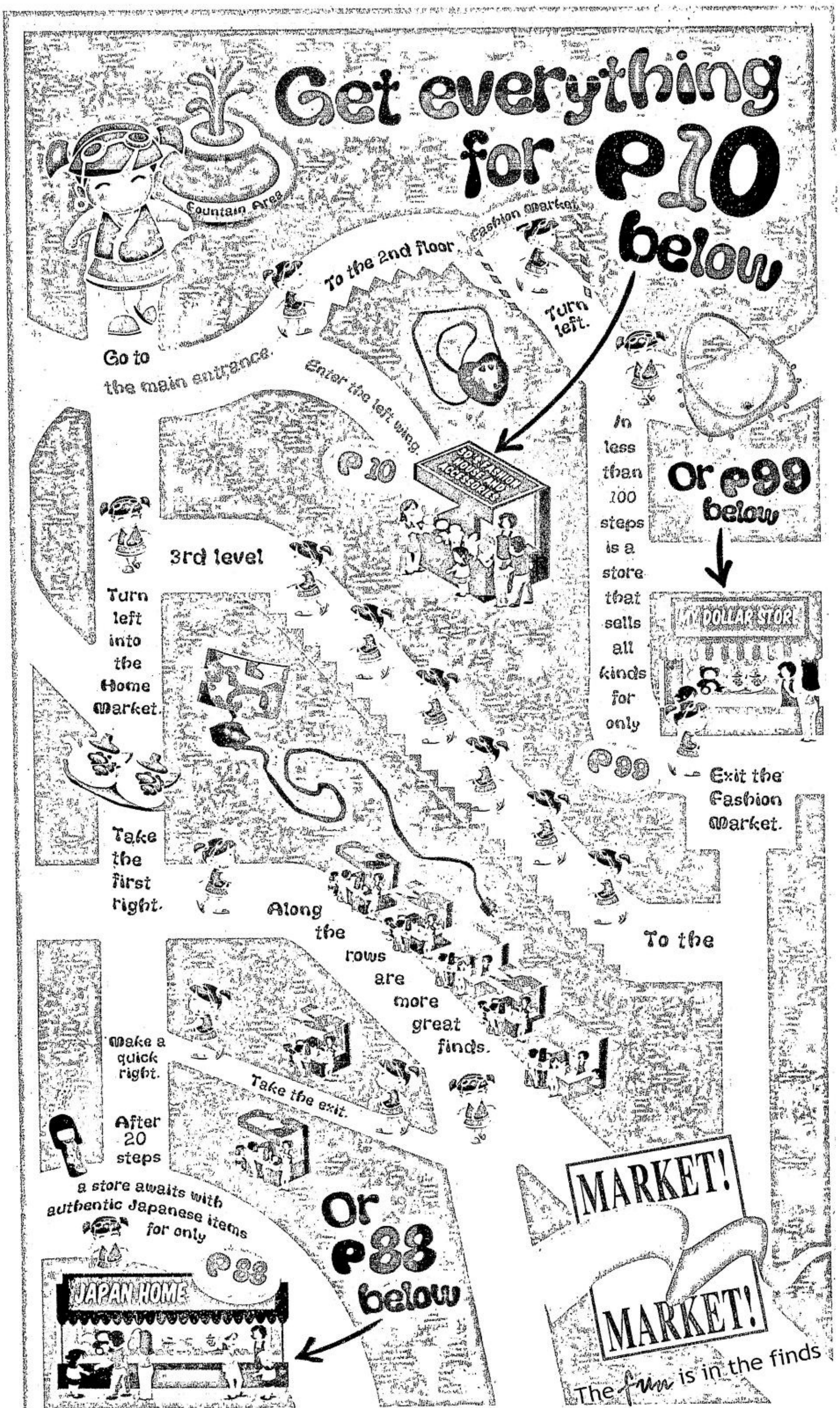



# She's no longer in a party mood

DEAR EMILY,

I have this new group of friends who, for the past several weeks, have been out partying every weekend.

I'm getting quite tired of it. I would spend on party clothes almost every week to look my best, not to mention the money spent on expensive drinks.

I've been a club goer for almost six years now and it has always been the same... partying, dancing, meeting all kinds of people, getting drunk, getting wild... I think it's not for me anymore.

**EMILY'S POST**

*Emily A. Marcelo*

I've had enough and feel I've already graduated from that. I just want out but I don't want my friends to think I'm a killjoy or that I don't know how to make "*sabay*."

It's all right with me to have a night-out or gimmick occasionally or one weekend of every month.

But the way things are going right now, my friends want to make a career out of it! My boyfriend and I can't have our own dates anymore because it's like we're expected to be with them every single weekend.

It's not easy making up excuses. My guy also does not know how to break away from them because he doesn't want our friends to think we're different from them.

My boyfriend and I could barely save anymore. Its kind of getting out of hand already.

MISS VODKA

Looks like you're all still in your teens or early 20s to be really this serious about gigs and clubbing. You knew these people only recently and already they are running your lives!

But before you despair that you and your boyfriend will be the odd couple in this group, how do you know that some of the others are not as sick and tired of the whole party scene? How do you know that someone else is not quietly trying to get out after realizing how empty everything is—empty camaraderie, empty conversations, empty laughter? That this party scene has not become one big empty thoughtless existence to them, too?

This group seems to have that herd-mentality—aimlessly wandering around, looking happy, chattering endlessly, but not really knowing what's happening.

What is it that makes you and your boyfriend reluctant to leave? Why do you seem stuck and tied to this aimless group? So what if they start badmouthing you?

Do you or your boyfriend owe a big favor to anyone in the group? Do you have an unpaid debt perhaps? Are you beholden to any of them for your jobs? Don't you two have minds of your own? Who cares about what anybody says about anything!

Next time this group plans a weekend outing, tell them you and your boyfriend already have a previous commitment. Don't make detailed excuses. Make your explanation short and sweet. Say there'll always be a next time. And when the next weekend comes, do the same thing.

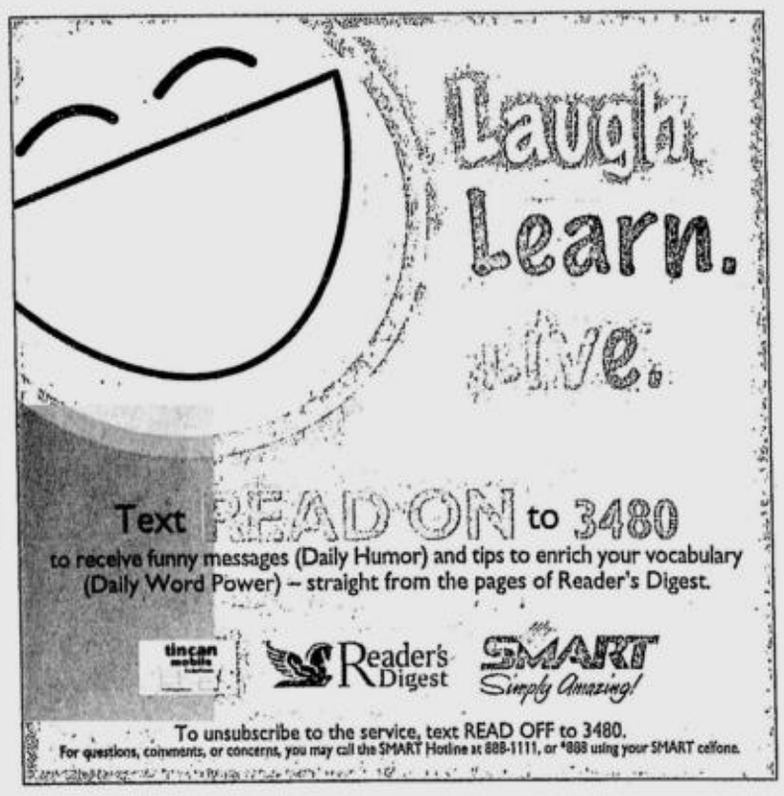
Don't worry about telling a lie. It's a small white lie and nobody's going to die because of it. Sooner or later they'd realize what you and your boyfriend are trying to tell them.

It's a long life and, who knows, you might still want to get together with this group sometime—but on your own terms! It's a free world. Don't let anyone or any group hold you hostage. If you allow that to happen, nobody's to blame but yourself for your unease or unhappiness. There's only you to point the finger at.

*E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, subject Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.*

STATE-OF-THE-ART fiber-optic Christmas village

ANIMATED Santa Claus figures




# Fiber-optic Christmas trimmings

NO CHRISTMAS WOULD BE complete without Christmas ornaments filling the house.

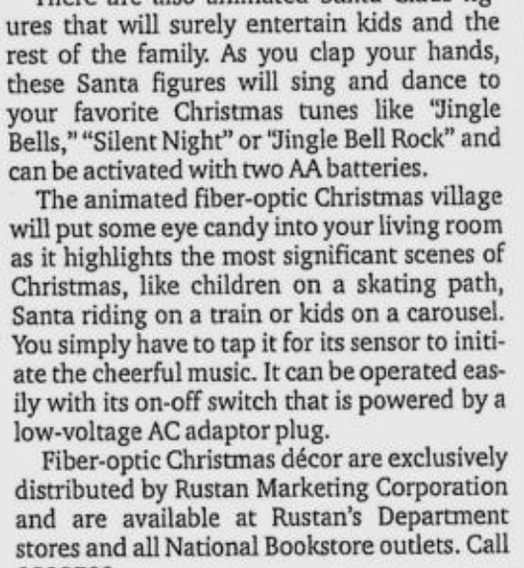
But, as you stock up on your favorite Christmas trimmings, check out those state-of-the-art fiber optic Christmas decorations which are now available in the market. The unique fiber-optic feature allows Christmas trees and wreaths to light up when plugged since light transmits through its fine and flexible plastic fibers.

Having one is also cost-efficient because you no longer have to buy traditional Christmas lights that easily get tangled up and are tedious to install. Plus, the fiber-optic tree also has built-in ornaments that make it practical and convenient.

There are also animated Santa Claus figures that will surely entertain kids and the rest of the family. As you clap your hands, these Santa figures will sing and dance to your favorite Christmas tunes like "Jingle Bells," "Silent Night" or "Jingle Bell Rock" and can be activated with two AA batteries.

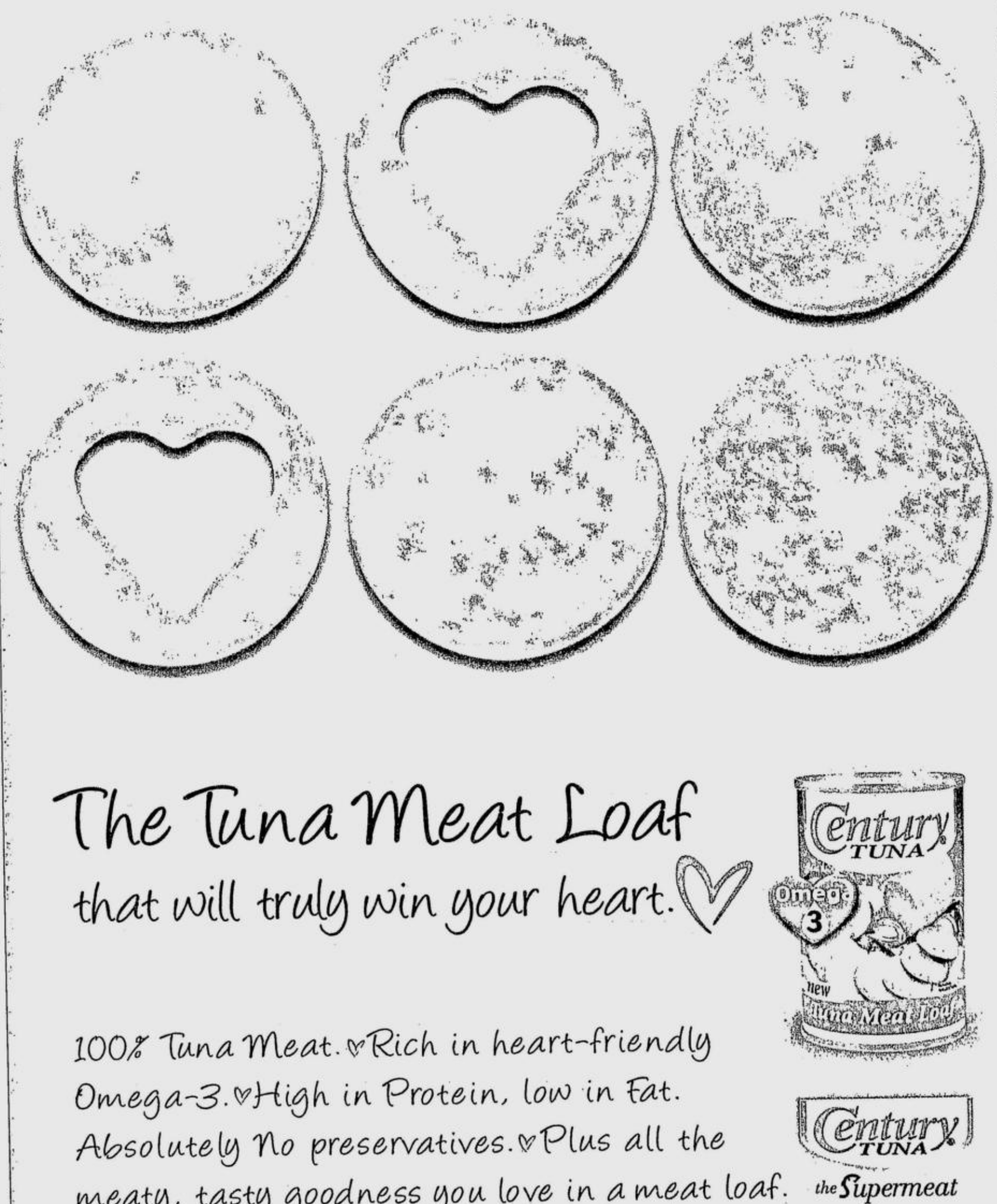
The animated fiber-optic Christmas village will put some eye candy into your living room as it highlights the most significant scenes of Christmas, like children on a skating path, Santa riding on a train or kids on a carousel. You simply have to tap it for its sensor to initiate the cheerful music. It can be operated easily with its on-off switch that is powered by a low-voltage AC adaptor plug.

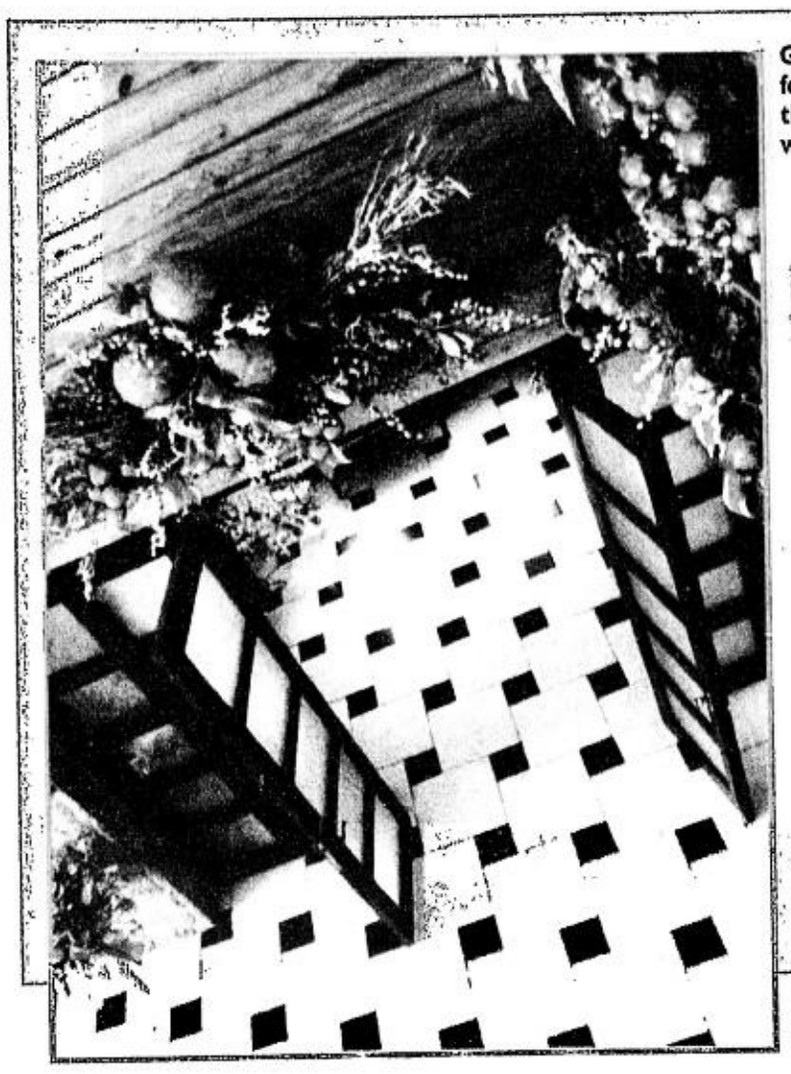
Fiber-optic Christmas décor are exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation and are available at Rustan's Department stores and all National Bookstore outlets. Call 8909703.



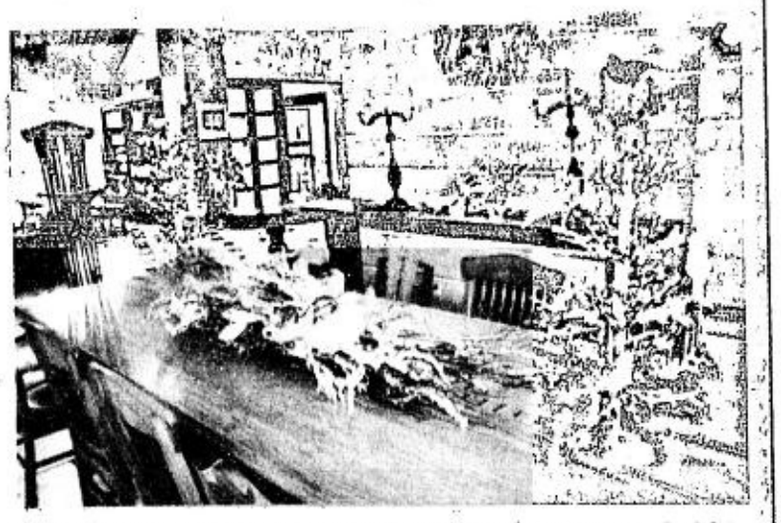
MORE Christmas eye candy

NO lights needed for fiber-optic holiday tree





GOT 12-ft high double doors like these? Hang free-form vine garlands. Tamilee's garlands come in 12 themes this year. These ones are from the Winter Red with pearlized silver with birds and nests.



NARRA table that is 12 ft long, by Benjie Reyes, is decorated with long twig arrangement with birds and nests flanked by two metal trees of red glass beads and beaded birds.

**1 Consider the scale and size of the room and furniture.**

# How to decorate big

EVEN IN UNCERTAIN TIMES you cannot let the Grinch steal Christmas. One sure way to bring holiday cheer to everyone is by decorating your home. Got a big home and need ideas on how to go about sprucing it up in the spirit of the season? Here's Tami Leung to the rescue. The creative genius behind top exporter Tamilee Decor uses a Baguio vacation home with expansive floor area and cathedral ceilings to demonstrate the art of decorating a big space.

FIREPLACE warms the heart with garland-decorated mantlepiece and 6-ft tall double topiaries of red balls on both sides. Above the antique cart wheel is flowing vine garland with twig drops, birds and nests.

**2 Consider the room's features—ceiling, windows, doors, stairways, railing, ledges, etc.**

LEDGE on the top of the airwell usually holding oversized Igorot baskets is accented with big red balls and garlands.

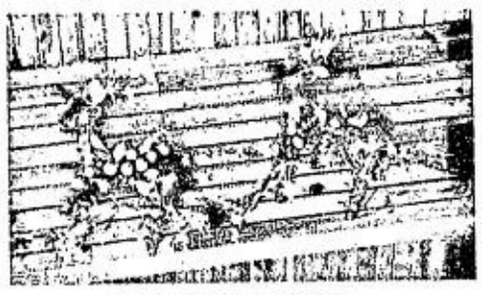
DON'T forget the foyer! On console table is twig arrangement of beaded red cardinals, glittered eggs and pearlized sugar pine cones. Metal tree has 236 red balls and silver leaves.

**3 Spread out the Christmas cheer in all areas of the house.**

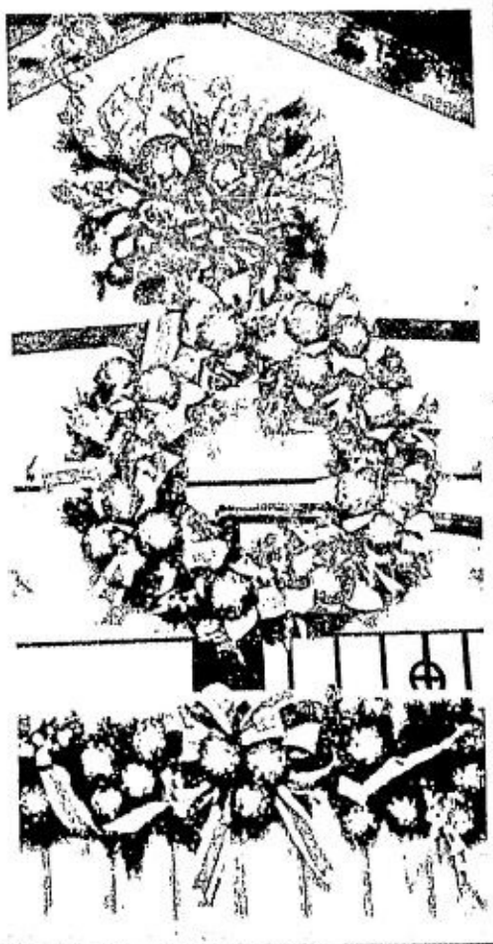
PICTURE windows are hung with metal swirls that are finished in red and silver.

**4 Don't cover the windows with trimmings. Make sure that natural light still comes through.**

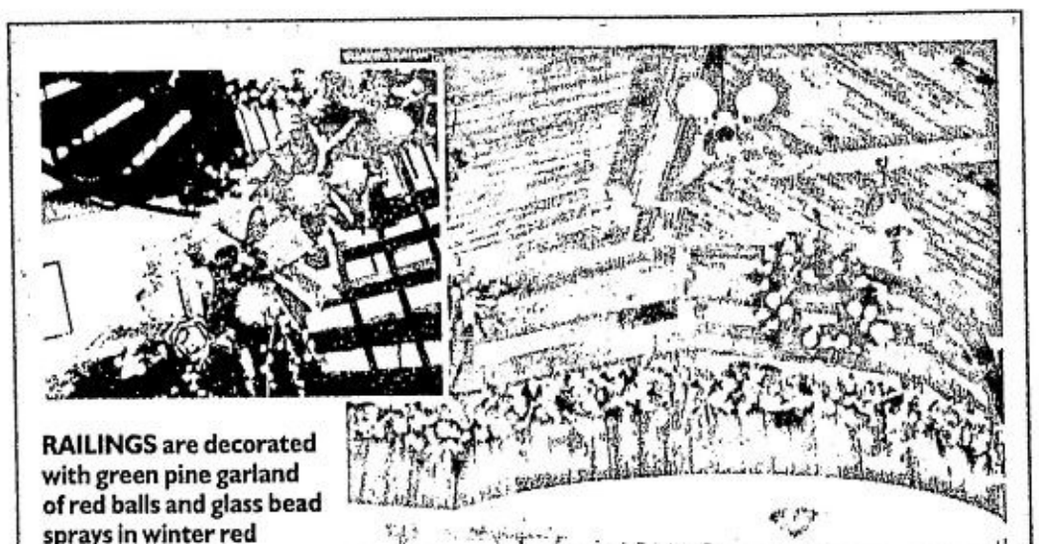
OVERSIZED wreaths fill empty walls and have varied decor but still maintain the silver and red coloration.



ON THE CLADDING above the fireplace running the breadth of the living room are five scaled-to-size vine reindeers strung together with vine garlands and a giant swag cum sleigh made of twigs.



**5 Before putting up big and heavy ornaments on the wall, trace them on paper, cut out and use the cutouts as guide.**



RAILINGS are decorated with green pine garland of red balls and glass bead sprays in winter red theme.

**6 Don't lose your house to the décor.**

**7 Remember that children and guests may be going through the house, so allot room for traffic.**

**8 Leave room for your personal space.**

ON THE coffee table is a candelabra with 27 red vigil lamps.

DON'T put away daily amenities just because they are not Christmas-y. Festoon the TV armoire with pine cones, red balls and ribbons.

PHOTOS BY RAFFY LERMA

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See Tessa! on page F2

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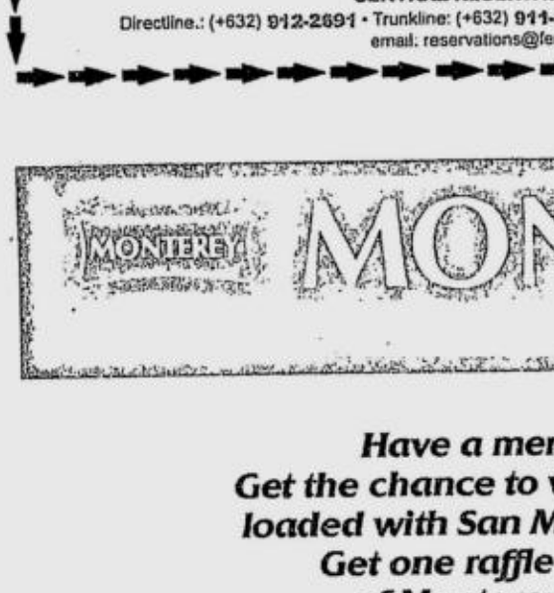


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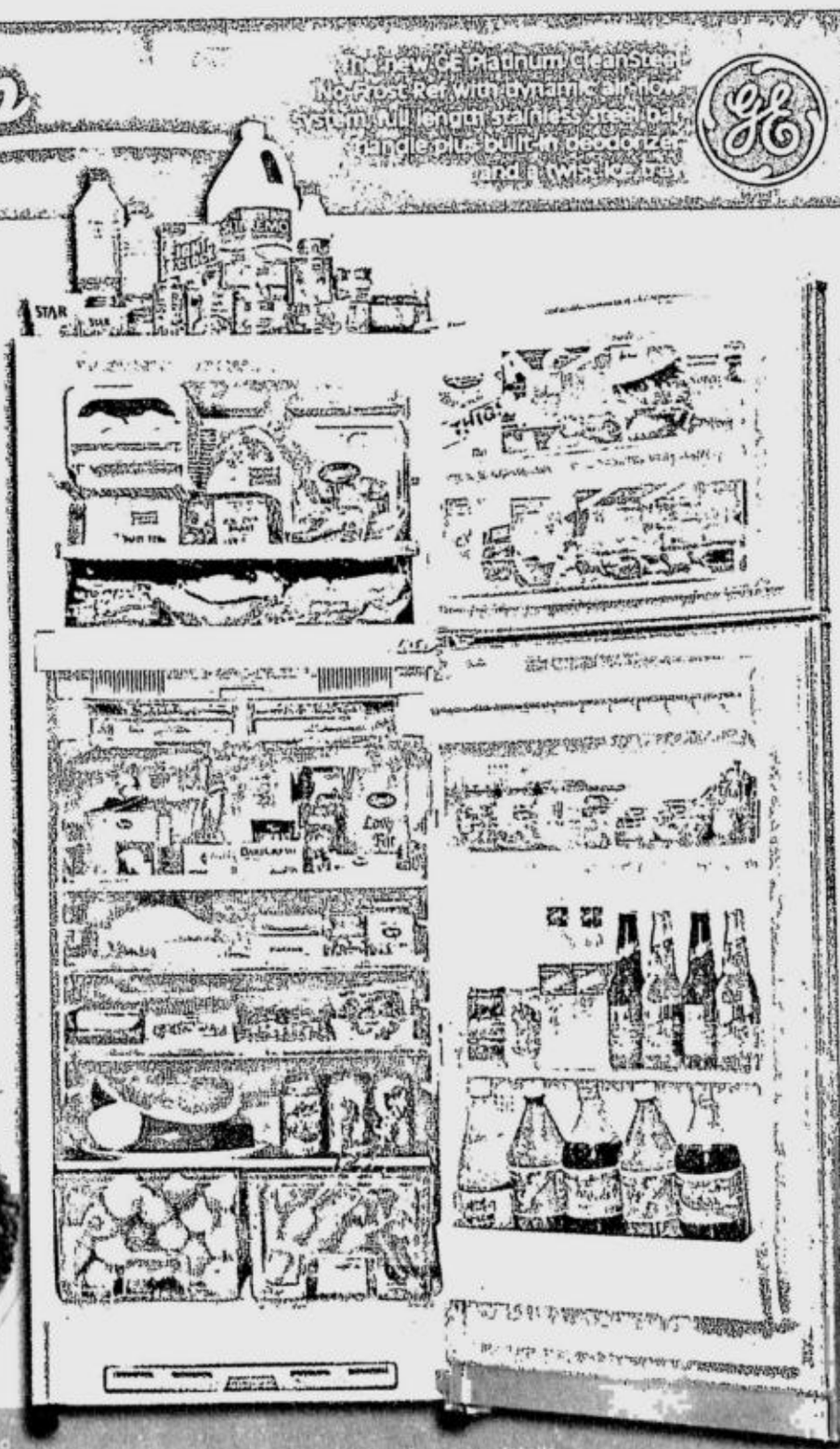

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Miniature landscaping on a tray and a terrarium in a fishbowl will be taught on Nov. 27. They are ideal eco-friendly giveaways this Christmas.

Classes will be held 1-6 p.m. All materials, such as sand and cement, will be provided for the hands-on pot-making. On Nov. 27, the class will start with a lecture on the basic principles of miniature landscaping and care and maintenance of indoor gardening.

Participants in all workshops will get snacks, handouts and certificate.

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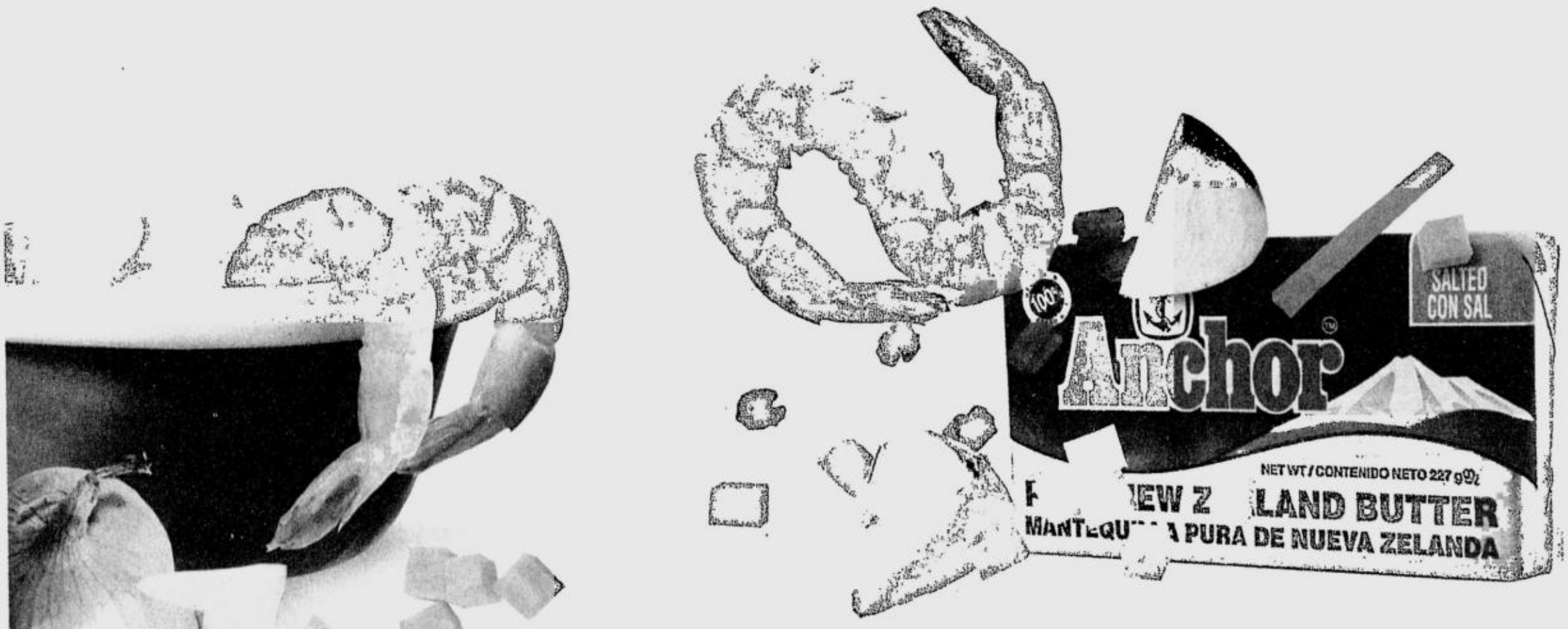


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*Seafood Pastel*

INGREDIENTS:
CRUST : 1 1/2 cups all purpose flour • 1 cup ANCHOR BUTTER, cubed • 1 tsp salt • 1/2 cup cold water
EGGWASH: 2-3 tbsps water stirred in 1 pc egg yolk, slightly beaten
FILLING: 1/4 cup white wine • 1 cup scallops • 1/2 cup ANCHOR BUTTER • 1/2 cup onion, chopped • 1/2 cup celery, chopped • 3/4 cup carrot, cubed • 3/4 cup potato, cubed • 1 cup shrimps suahe, peeled • 1 cup squid rings • 1/4 cup all purpose flour • 2 cups shrimp broth • 1/2 cup all purpose cream • 1/2 - 1 tsp fine salt • 1/4 tsp ground black pepper

PROCEDURE:
PASTRY DOUGH: Place flour, salt and **ANCHOR BUTTER** in a food processor and pulse until mixture resembles the size of a pea. Add water a tablespoon at a time and pulse. Check dough by squeezing with your finger to see if it holds together. If not, add more water. Remove from bowl and shape into a ball. Refrigerate for 20 mins.
FILLING: Pour wine in a pan and simmer. Add scallops and cook until most of the liquid evaporates. Set aside. Melt **ANCHOR BUTTER** in a saucepan. Saute onion and celery. Add carrots and potatoes. Add shrimp and squid rings. Cook until shrimp changes color. Add scallops. Stir in flour. Pour in shrimp broth and stir in cream. Season with salt and pepper. Simmer for 5 mins. Transfer seafood mixture to a baking dish. On a slightly floured surface, roll out dough by using a rolling pin and place on top of your dish. Brush dough with eggwash. Bake for 40 minutes at 400° F until crust turns golden brown.
Makes 6 servings.

IVARLUSKI Aseron JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

# To Take five

## 'Fashion Declaration' featured the works of Joey Samson, James Reyes, Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo, Ignacio Loyola and Ivarluski Aseron

**Text by Alex Y. Vergara**
**Photos by Chito Vecina and Jim Guiao Punzalan**

IT WAS ONE "FASHION DECLAration" like no other as five of the country's hottest young designers recently asserted themselves via clothes that best reflected their innate talents and current sensibilities.

Directed by Ariel Lozada and presented by the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the show at the Fort's NBC Tent featured the works of Joey Samson, James Reyes, Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo, Ignacio Loyola and Ivarluski Aseron.

In lieu of the traditional ramp, the director settled for a less imposing T-shaped platform. Patrick Rosas and his team stayed away from character makeup in favor of clean, clear faces and well-defined eyes. Hairdressers from Hair Asia did the models' tresses.

So how did the designers, each of whom showed 25 pieces, fare in their respective bids to earn a place in the industry? They were all able to hold their own, but if I were to rank the best of the lot, I would pick Aseron.

JOEY Samson CHITO VECINA

Aseron, the only designer who earned a standing ovation from the evening's well-heeled crowd, has definitely arrived with a well-edited collection of architectural pieces inspired by the Japanese novel "The Tale of Genji."

The gist of the story revolves around the emperor's son and his diverse relationships with each of his concubines. Aseron thus fashioned gowns that, to his mind, best reflected each relationship. In other words, no two gowns were alike.

There was never a dull piece in Aseron's three-dimensional arsenal, some of which consisted of either draped or paneled numbers. Others were embellished with flaps, peek-a-boos, shirrings, overlaps, covered buttons and lantern-like details achieved through boning. To allow such details to stand out, the designer chose muted shades such as mauve, teal, olive, bone and gray.

Not only did they look different from one another, each gown was made from a different material, from denim to suede, satin to jersey, and silk gazar to various cotton blends.

And the best part was each piece in the collection was versatile enough to be worn by both young and more mature women, as most of Aseron's empire dresses showed just enough skin.

Apart from resorting to boning, the designer endlessly played with his patterns to achieve his vision. Slumped on the floor for more elbow room, he took an entire day just to cut one outfit. But the actual execution seemed like child's play to him next to the collection's conceptualization.

After seeing Aseron's pieces, one observer was reminded of Atsuro Tayama's work. To the Filipino designer's credit, however, his clothes were more polished and wearable than those of the famous Japanese designer.

Word of warning: If they don't come up with something radical soon, Aseron's more seasoned colleagues and former mentors would end up eating his dust. Wake up, guys!

### Strong collections

Both Samson and Reyes came in strong with collections that mined their respective strengths.

Since Reyes was in a "happy and escapist" mood, he chose to work with various cotton-based materials in white, pink and green. Even the buttons he used resembled multi-colored M&Ms.

The designer later incorporated gray to put some punch to his collection, which featured billowing trapeze gowns, A-line tops, deconstructed pants and lantern skirts consisting of 12 panels. Unlike Aseron, Reyes was more

TAKE/ F3

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METRO Society editor Raul Manzano with Doody Tuason

SOON-TO-WED Audrey Tan and Miguel Zubiri

FCCP royal couple Louie and Mellie Ablaza

UNILEVER CEO Howard Belton and wife Cristina in Venetian costumes

AFTER-PARTY shot for Fashion INQUIRER guests

# Riding the social whirl in flagrant makeup

PINEAPPLE gang Leah Puyat, Marissa Lopa, Angelette Calero and Anton Barretto

METRO Market! Market! GM Julie Montano, Tourism Undersecretary Edu Jarque, Joni Abigail Gaisano and Francis Salinel

ABS-CBN Publishing GM Thelma San Juan, Dennis Valdes, and Christophe and Lala Lejeune

WONDERFUL Fr. James G. Reuter

GENEROUS couple Chuching and Marge Tambunting

GAWAD Kalinga friend Louie with Sr. Gertrude

SNOW queen Tina Tinio

NOW THAT I HAVE successfully reached my six-month target for nursing my baby **Athena**, I am tempted to rethink my game plan and find out what the Department of Health really means by "breast milk is still best for babies up to 2 years."

But the thoughts of Christmas just around the corner, getting back to my old size, enjoying a bit of bubbly come New Year and, most important, enjoying the luxury of an uninterrupted night of sleep are too much to bear.

Plus, there is the siren song of outrageous costumes and wacky makeup calling. Last week, **Lourd Ramos**, expert MAC cosmetics artist, transformed my face into a fire-theme creation, complete with flaming lashes, sequined accents and extraordinary **Arnel Papa** creations. When I popped in on Athena for a breast-feeding session, she took one look at me and started crying. How do I explain to my baby that I am back in the social whirl, flagrant makeup and all?

The night before, I dressed as a Winter Empress at the Shu Uemura party at The Loft in Rockwell, where Shu launched the Ai Yamaguchi Cleansing Oils line. I had to make sure I fed Athena before donning silver white face, a platinum wig and snowflakes. The invite said to come as one of the seasons, so I quickly bought out the Christmas décor section of Metro Market! Market! with help from GM **Julie Montano**.

> I had to make sure I fed Athena before donning silver white face, a platinum wig and snowflakes for the recent Shu Uemura party

The event featured an auction of Hake brush sets, lithographs and cleansing oil gift sets, with all proceeds going to the L'Arche Foundation. I was hoping to win a Motorola PEBL phone for best costume. Shu expert Tina Tinio was the other contender, resplendent in her icy, snow-queen outfit. I told Tina I'd gladly trade my winter crown for some Shu Uemura glittery lashes.

A few weeks back, Motorola also sponsored Fashion Declaration, INQUIRER's fashion show launching the paper's new Friday Lifestyle with three brilliant, fashion-and-beauty experts at the helm: **Apples Aberin-Sadhwani, Jenni Epperson** and my new sister-in-law **Ria Francisco-Prieto**. Check out the latest fashion trends, season's must-haves and beauty tricks every Friday.

One of my favorites was **Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo**, who featured textured, soft fabrics with embellishments and odd shapes while keeping the lines still feminine. She will display her wares at a wearable-art exhibit in Gallerie Astra in LRI Business Plaza, Reposo Street, this coming Thursday.

## Joint effort

Last Tuesday, normally a slow day for social affairs, I was busy shuttling from one event to another, beginning with the launch of Pusong Assumptionista. This wonderful campaign is a joint effort by Gawad Kalinga and Assumption to give permanent shelter to the underprivileged.

CARNIVALE Venezia parade of masks

INQUIRER team Alex Vergara, Cheche Moral and Apples Aberin-Sadwani

Ever-cool Assumption nun Sr. **Gertrude**, who is continually spreading her infectious charity bug, encouraged the Assumption alumnae to support the project by buying little Christmas gift items like charm bracelets, T-shirts and note cards. Anyone can also volunteer his or her time to be part of the building process, all part of our effort to help build a better Philippines.

While on the subject of volunteerism, let's all sustain clean air by supporting the La Mesa Watershed Project. Today is the final day of The Family Wellness Festival at the La Mesa Eco Park.

## Lounge chic

From Pusong Assumptionista, I headed home to get into a Venetian ball gown for two more events. Metro Society magazine had its first anniversary bash at the Pen's Rigodon Ballroom. The invite specified ultra-lounge chic, and the chill-out crowd was all in-sync with their attire. My ball gown was probably lounge chic during the Renaissance, so I was just around 500 years ultra-late.

Pineapple Shop arranged a lounge-y setup of sofas and mood lighting to set a relaxed tone for the evening. With half the crowd outside smoking, the Bloomfields, a young, Beatles-inspired band managed by **Itos Valdes**, brought them back and got them dancing.

After the lounge act, I was off to the Friends of the CCP Charity Ball, hosted by **Mellie Ablaza**, Manila's new No. 1 hostess as decided by the cognoscenti of the Philippine Tatler. Her Carnavale di Venezia Ball at the NBC Tent was so grand, I had never felt so plain and simple in any event before.

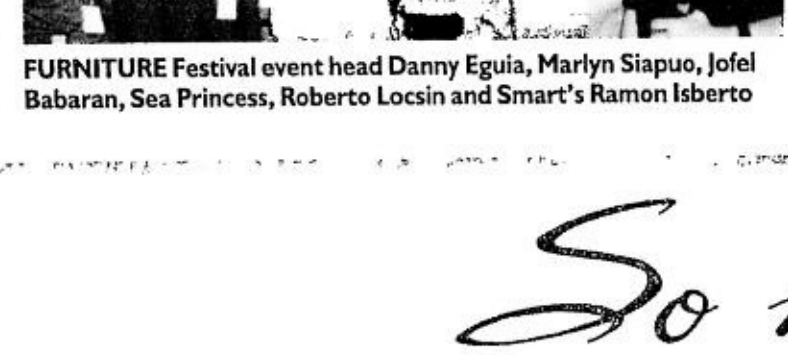
Mellie's son, **Junjie Ablaza**, executed the stage backdrop, spectacularly lit with candelabras and a gondola, and in perfect harmony with the beautifully arranged black-and-white settings by Mandarin Hotel.

But the standout feature of the ball was the sea of masks and embellished gowns on so many of the guests. I felt like I was seeing Tessas-of-the-future all over the place. Thanks to these ladies, the social aspect of this country is alive and well, and everyone looked like they were having so much fun in the process.

## Furniture showcase

Let me end with some plugs. At the ongoing 29th Philippine Furniture Festival at the SM Megatrade Hall, the best furniture and furnishings available in the local market are on sale until Nov. 20.

And for all you cooking aficionados out there: a friend from Palau, **Tova Bornovski**, has just published a cookbook, "A Taste of Rainbow's End," featuring local delicacies from the island. This international book features the work of local photographers and graphic designers and was printed by my hubby at Print Town. It's available at National Bookstore and Fully Booked.



FURNITURE Festival event head Danny Eguia, Marlyn Siapuo, Jofel Babaran, Sea Princess, Roberto Locsin and Smart's Ramon Isberto

*E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph*

# Take five

From page F1

concerned with color coordination than conceptualization.

They may appear oversized, but the shirts and blouses required ample precision in terms of cutting. If you lay them flat on the floor, said Reyes, several pieces were actually shaped like circles and squares.

Despite their weird, almost avant-garde shapes, however, Reyes' clothes managed to retain their whimsical flavor via such details as circular patches, oversized pockets, built-in obi sashes and huge bows.

In fact, some of the patches, which came in different hues, resembled the silhouette of the world's most famous mouse. It wasn't intentional, Reyes insisted.

Comparisons, however, are in order. Next to Aseron's mind-blowing dresses, Reyes' separates seemed a bit predictable and repetitive.

## Classic silhouettes

Samson drew from his mastery of tailoring to fashion suits, skirts, dresses and cropped blouses made of suiting materials in black, white, gray and hints of wine. Despite sticking to classic silhouettes, he managed to keep his clothes from becoming predictable by incorporating a number of twists and visual gimmicks (two pairs of pants layered and worn together were actually just one).

The designer either exaggerated or shortened the proportions of his clothes as seen in quite a number of shirts and blouses. One cropped shirt, for instance, came with an extended zipper to elongate the look. He also played with collars, which he interpreted in various shapes and sizes.

The main challenge, said Samson, involved working on standard patterns while trying to discover new ways of manipulating them without going "beyond the borders of sanity." For the first time in recent memory, he also did a draped number that adhered to the "classic" silhouette without the use of darts.

## Labor-intensive

One of the evening's most tedious collections was that of Quisumbing-Romulo's, which made use of strips of dyed piña to fashion figure-flattering straight dresses and columns embellished with sequins, Japanese glass beads and tiny strips of leather.

Unfortunately, it was one of the evening's most predictable sets as well.

The designer's superior craftsmanship and passion for detail were very much evident in each piece, as her creativity goes beyond

IGNACIO Loyola
CHITO VECINA

YVONNE Quisumbing-Romulo
CHITO VECINA

clothes to include labor-intensive leather belts, bags and accessories. But after five similar pieces coming one after the other, there was little for the audience to look forward to during the remainder of the segment.

If her intention was to present a collection based on a single look, then it would have been better if all her models had come out simultaneously before leaving the ramp one by one. Their sheer number alone would have been enough to jolt people from their seats. Lozada should have seen through this.

## Drastic transformation

Finally, people who have been following Loyola's career—from his days as a designer of edgy pieces for the young and the unconventional to his latest attempt at going "commercial"—were quite surprised if a bit disappointed at his drastic transformation.

Loyola's penchant for using natural and woven fabrics was still evident, but his design sensibilities have undergone a 360-degree turn. His latest attempt at going mainstream yielded wearable but boxy separates and bustiers made of abel Iloco.

Some pieces were made from readily available blankets, while others (particularly tiered coats and jackets inspired by the *puso ng saging*) were fashioned from made-to-order abel Iloco with metallic thread insertions.

JAMES Reyes
CHITO VECINA

Unlike Quisumbing-Romulo's, Loyola's problem was the opposite: His pieces lacked a general sense of direction.

Again, Lozada failed to see through the collection's obvious weakness. The show would have ended with a bang had the director assigned Aseron instead of Loyola to do the finale.

In fairness to Loyola, his collection had its moments. But the entire effort shifted from tailored and body-hugging separates to draped, pleated and strapless shift dresses in the blink of an eye.

I also found some of the glittery pieces a bit unflattering to the Filipina's dusky complexion. It will take one brave woman, for instance, to slip into the designer's finale: an Edwardian-inspired beaded and gold number made of curtain material. The piece simply defied classification.

Loyola admitted as much backstage, saying that he was a bit hampered in achieving his vision due to his unfamiliarity with the material.

He and his colleagues are lucky they still have youth on their side. Unlike some of their more senior but seemingly impervious colleagues, they have a lifetime ahead of them to learn from and rectify such shortcomings.

*E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph*

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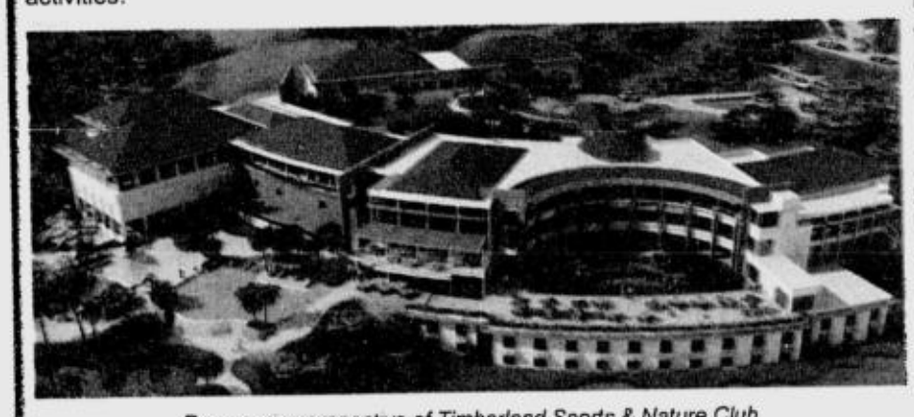

Panoramic perspective of Timberland Sports & Nature Club

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*Timberland Sports and Nature Club* is situated within the masterplanned, township development of Filinvest Land, Inc. aptly called Timberland Heights. Completing the enviable lifestyle in this 677-hectare sprawl of agro-forest farm estates and residential resort communities is the exclusive membership at the well-appointed *Timberland Sports and Nature Club*.

The 9-hectare, first-rate sports and recreational development of *Timberland Sports and Nature Club* has an elevation of 345 meters above sea level and features a splendid view of Manila Bay, Makati and Ortigas skylines. Unwind in the horizon-edge swimming pool or sweat it out at the multi-purpose courts - the freedom is yours to indulge in health and leisure. Hike along nature's trails or rappel by the indoor climbing wall - take your pick at your own dream adventure. Chill out at the al fresco bar or celebrate milestones at the grand ballroom - make friends and enjoy good conversation.

Perspective of Timberland Club's Spa Lounge

With the success of The Palms Country Club, the flagship project of Filinvest Leisure in Alabang, you can be assured of a high quality team of foreign consultants assembled from masterplanning to professional management of *Timberland Sports and Nature Club*. Leading the planning stage are well-renowned design firms such as Wimberly Allison Tong and Goo (WATG) of USA as the architect, Belt Collins of Hong Kong as the landscape design consultant, and Glenn Texeira, Inc. of USA as interior designer.

***Nurture Family Ties at Timberland Sports & Nature Club.***

Bring the entire family on **November 20, 2005 (Sunday 9:00am-5:00pm)** as we break ground at *Timberland Sports and Nature Club* and experience the haven of wellness that awaits our privileged members. Let the kids immerse in arts and crafts while pampering your body with a soothing massage. Enrich your mind as you learn hobbies for healthy living or find your core in meditative movements. Most importantly, relish the quality time with your family right in the heart of nature and thrive in the pleasure of fine living!

Perspective of Timberland Club's Family Restaurant

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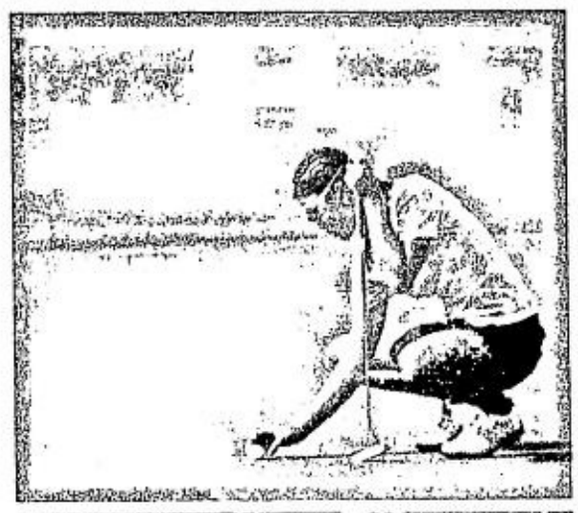
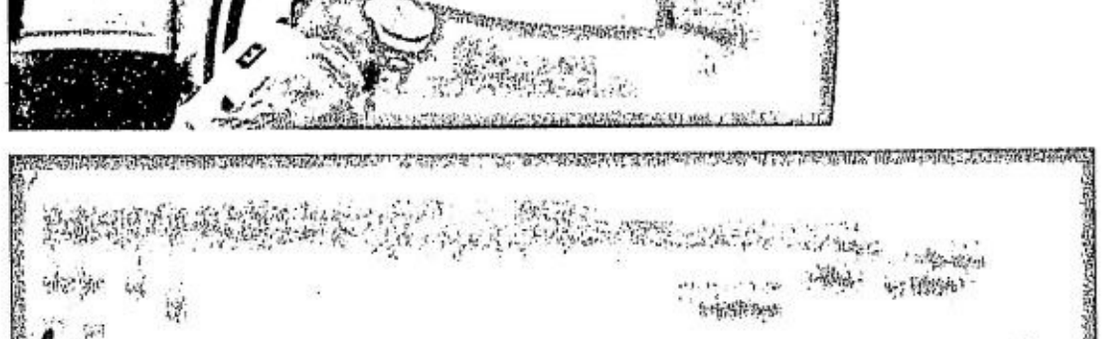
# Jennifer Rosales

## PLAYS SMART.

January saw "J-Ro" signing up as the latest endorser for SMART as she showed off her golf swing to the media during her contract signing. Whether in the Philippines, Hawaii, or at the Seta Golf Course in Japan, a world-class athlete like Jenny always aims to win wherever she competes. Indeed, just as SMART allows people to stay connected worldwide, so has Jenny been showing off her competitive drive in tournament after tournament.






As a popular and colorful figure on the LPGA Tour, the 27-year old Jenny's colorful attire and flamboyant personality have allowed her to stand out on the tour. However, it is her composure and her dedication to her game that is gaining her attention today. After being named the 2004 Sportswoman of the Year by the Philippine Sportswriters' Association (PSA), Jenny stands tall above her competition once again. Her runner-up finish allowed her to re-enter the Top 25 in the ADT Money Rankings, giving her a chance to compete in the ADT Championship to be held at the Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Florida from November 17-20.

Jenny will be coming home to the Philippines on November 23, and will proudly display our colors as she competes in the Southeast Asian Games from November 27-December 5. SMART joins the nation in congratulating a true winner who continues to make waves both here and abroad. We can only hope that for Jenny, the best is yet to come.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

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BIENVENIDO Tantoco III of host Rustans

# Manila hosts global meet of retail stores

## Rustan's is the only Philippine member of the Intercontinental Group of Department Stores

RUSTAN'S HOSTED RECENTLY the 57th Intercontinental Group of Department Stores (IGDS) General Assembly and Convention 2005.

Theme of the annual meeting was "Thinking Beyond Products and Services." This year's meeting discussed the needs of today's rapidly changing market that required a fresher, much broader perspective for stores to remain innovative and dynamic.

The intercontinental group is a network seeking to foster global ties and establish close links among delegates.

Rustan's is the only member in the Philippines of the organization, affirming its position as a world-class player in luxury trading.

The conference included talks by top-level executives such as Yuwadee Bhicharnchitr, president of the IGDS and Central of Thailand, and Theodore Kuh, managing director and head of the European retail establishment Citigroup, London.

Founded in 1946, the IGDS organizes more than 20 conferences per year on store and retail issues to give members an opportunity to interact and exchange information.

Recognizing their corporate social responsibility, all IGDS members agree to be actively involved in minimizing the adverse impacts of their business activities on the environment, and to create equal economic opportunities for employees and local communities.

The IGDS currently has 34 members from 32 countries and is the largest organization of its type. Members have a combined annual sales of over US$60 billion.

YUWADEE Bhicharnchitr, IGDS president and president of Central, Thailand

PHOTOS: JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

JOEL Tantoco

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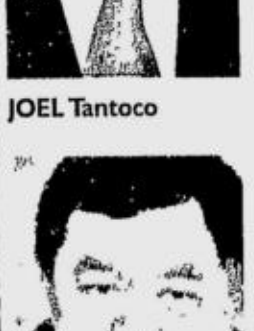

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POSTCARD-PERFECT
Pangalusian Island
in El Nido, Palawan

A PHOTOJOURNALIST'S DIARY

# This postcard-pretty paradise is for real

Text and photos by Ernie U. Sarmiento

El Nido has remained the ecotourist's best friend

THE PLANE, A 19-SEATER Dornier 228, touches down on a dirt strip at the El Nido airport. I see a military detachment with a sign that reads, "Task Force Malampaya." A Sikorsky helicopter is parked beside the headquarters that somehow gives some security assurance. The memory of Dos Palmas is still fresh as it is just a raiding distance away from the Abu Sayyaf lair of Basilan. Dos Palmas is just hours away by speedboat from El Nido.

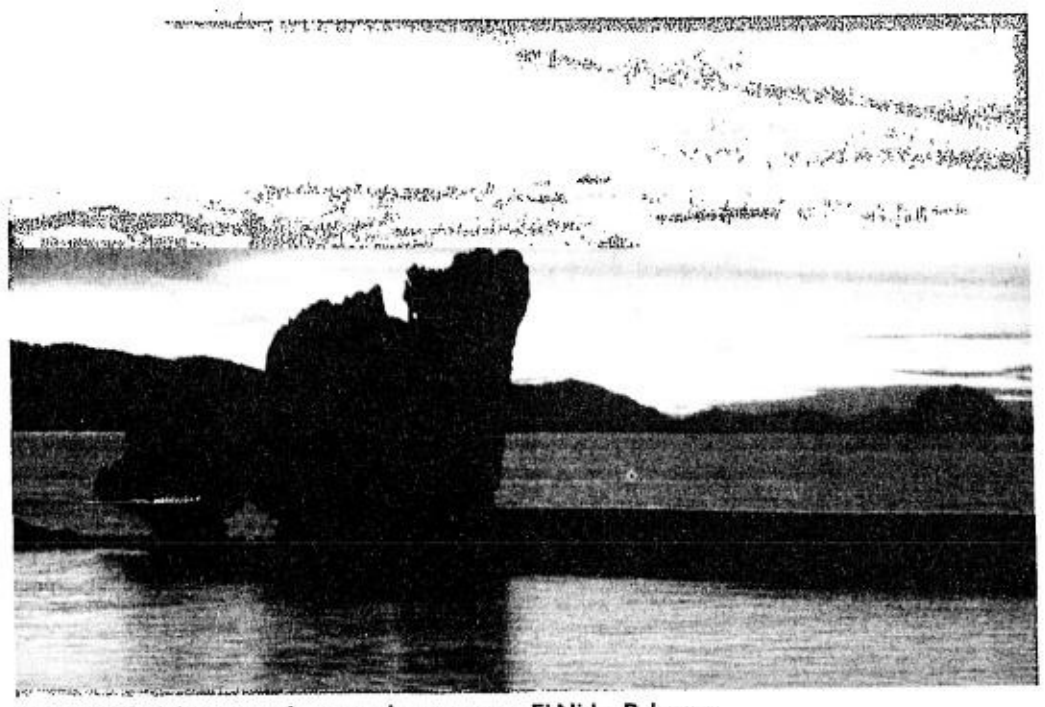
We from the media are greeted by an all-women singing group with a live carabao as a prop.

We walk past a garden where departing tourists, mostly of Koreans, lazed away. An usher leads us to a cozy wooden structure that serves as a terminal lounge. Iced tea and *puto't kutsinta* are served while we wait for our baggage and the speedboat that will bring us to Miniloc Resort.

Our speedboat roars over a still river into the open seas. We transfer to a waiting motorized outrigger for a 40-minute boat ride to Miniloc, known as the "Island of the Gods."

Miniloc Island Resort comes into view, a small cove of beach and white cottages sitting on stilts in the water, between twin towers of limestone cliffs. We pull into a pier, and again there was a singing group to welcome us

El Nido Island Resort started as a dive camp. Divers accidentally discovered it in 1982 when their boat ran aground after it hit a rock in one of the islands off El Nido town in Palawan.



THE VIEW of the sunset from our Lagen room, El Nido, Palawan

## Dive camp to resort

"We made it into a dive camp because of the many beautiful dive sites around the area," Alberto Lim, president of Ten Knots Development Corporation (TKDC) and operator of the El Nido Resorts, says.

TKDC built 15 rooms with no toilets and bath just so divers could have a place to rest. In 1995, since guests had increased, more cottages and staff were added.

Now El Nido offers a world-class, five-star service through its 150-strong work force. It has also added 31 rooms plus 12 new beachside rooms, which is inaugurated and blessed after our arrival.

The resort offers a variety of accommodations. There are Water Cottages and Seaview Rooms built on stilts, Garden Cottages surrounded by tropical plants and cliff cottages nestled in the hillside.

The cottages at Miniloc are built with thatched roofs and furnished with Filipino appurtenances and handicrafts. All cottages face the sea and provide a view of the cove, the bay and the nearby islands.

Facilities include a restaurant, which serves buffet meals, a pavilion bar, a meeting room for 40 persons, a boutique and a game area. The marine sports center has complete diving and snorkeling facilities, as well as kayaks, windsurfs, and aqua bikes.

Judith Ruethermann Distal, a guest during the inauguration, is a Swiss national who has been living in El Nido town for 11 years now. "I fell in love with El Nido the first time I saw a picture of the resort in 1991," she says. She had a chance to visit the Philippines in 1994, but her first stop was in Boracay. She was not impressed. "If you want to party go to Boracay, but if you want adventure, come to El Nido," she says.

And adventure she had. On her first visit to El Nido, she not only fell in love with the place but with her tour guide-boatman as well. She married local guy Tani Distal and stayed here for good. They now operate the El Nido Boutique and Art Café. She also books tours for fellow Swiss and other European tourists.

After a short tour on the facilities of Miniloc, our group transfers to the Lagen Island resort, a 30-minute ride by speedboat from Miniloc. It is here where we are booked for our three-day stay.

Lagen, "stone stove" in the local Cuyunin language, is so called because it is shaped like a primitive stove with funnels. Of the two resorts, Lagen is the more expensive accommodation.

Willy and I share one cottage at the beachfront. The brochure states that a night's accommodation at this cottage costs US$ 230+.

Our room has a magnificent view of the bay and the El Nido sunset. Lagen's sprawling grounds cover more than four hectares.

## Cove cottages

Like Miniloc, Lagen has Water Cottages built on stilts on both sides of its cove. Its Beachfront Cottages have a view of the entire cove and the sunset, and Forest Rooms and Forest Suites are built on the fringes of a tropical forest. All cottages, rooms and suites have floors and furnishings made of wood, all from old Filipino houses.

At the clubhouse is the air-conditioned main dining area. Buffet meals are served here. On the lower level are the boutique, game area, library and conference room, with a maximum capacity of 70 persons.

An Olympic-size swimming pool is in front of the clubhouse and nearby is the poolside bar. A short hike in the Lagen forest will take you through a canopy of giant trees and lead you to a private cove. You can then kayak to the bat caves and see bats hanging upside down right above you.

At the back of the forest rooms is the garden chapel where one can meditate at any time or attend mass on weekends. Apple says it is also the site of romantic weddings and classical concerts. A former cabinet official has booked 200 guests for five days for his wedding.

Workers are busy repainting the whole place in preparation for the former cabinet man's wedding.

On our second day, we go back to Miniloc for our intro dive orientation. A dive master shows us how easy and safe scuba diving can be if you take their instructions to the letter.

As the dive master guides me through my intro dive right off Miniloc's pier, colorful tropical fishes come into view as if welcoming me. Groupers, sergeant majors, parrotfish, fusiliers and *talakitok* (jackfish) as big as computer screens circle me.

The lesson takes some 15 minutes, but I stay in the water snorkeling for another hour. Swimming with the fishes is a luxury a Manila-based photojournalist like me cannot afford.

After some island-hopping, kayaking and a little mountain-climbing atop nearby Pangalusian Island, I realize El Nido is for the more athletic kind of visitors.

## Ecotourist's haven

Judith was right when she said El Nido is made for ecotourists, for aficionados of strange birds and fish, wild monkeys, ancient trees and rare flowers.

Palawan, in fact, has the biggest Philippine wildlife reservation, with some 230 species, and Miniloc island marine system offers an extensive variety of sea grass, corals, algae and fish.

The Miniloc and Lagen Island resorts are booked sometimes a year in advance by European, American, South Korean and Japanese vacationers, some of whom have been coming here since the first El Nido opened in 1982 as a dive camp.

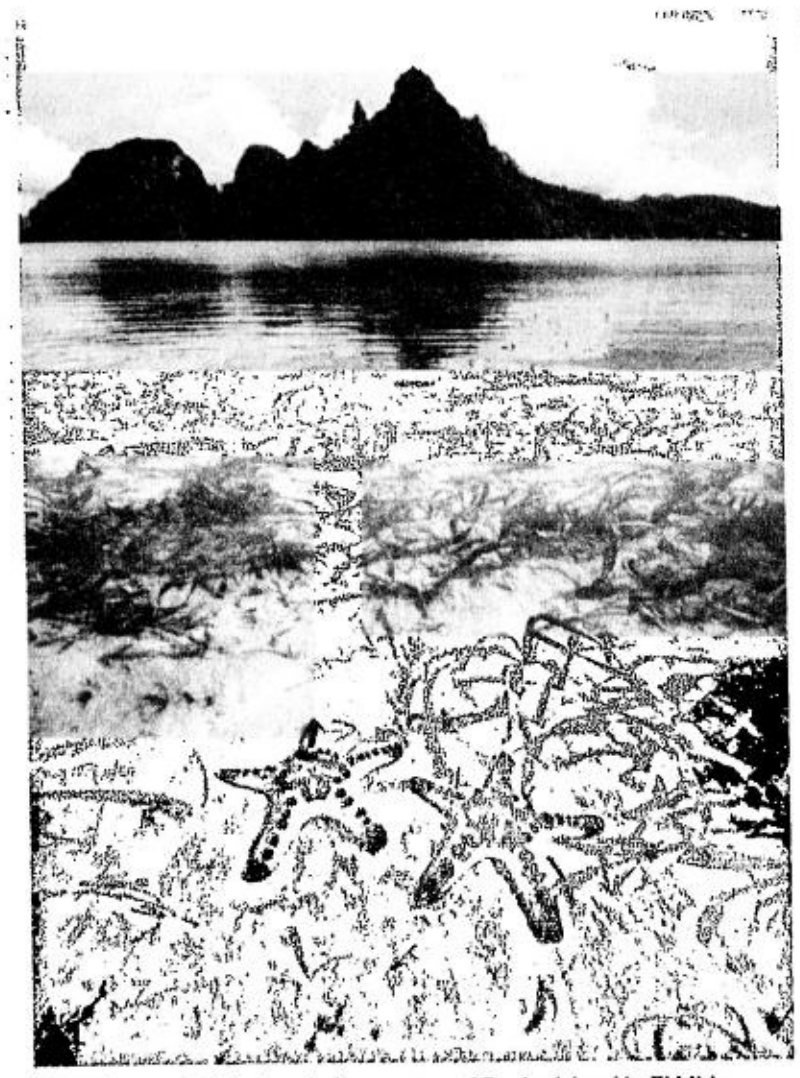
As for me, I find it wonderful and exhilarating to spend all day snorkeling and photographing wild birds and then retire to the Lagen cottage to watch the sunset.

The highlight of the tour comes on our last night at the resort. Apple announces that dinner will be at the Sandbar, an island on the other side of Lagen. As we approach Sandbar, I realize we are the only guests for the dinner. We have the whole island—which is just about 100 sq m in area and is illuminated all over by torch lights—to ourselves.

A table set for fine dining and classical music playing in the air set the mood for the night.

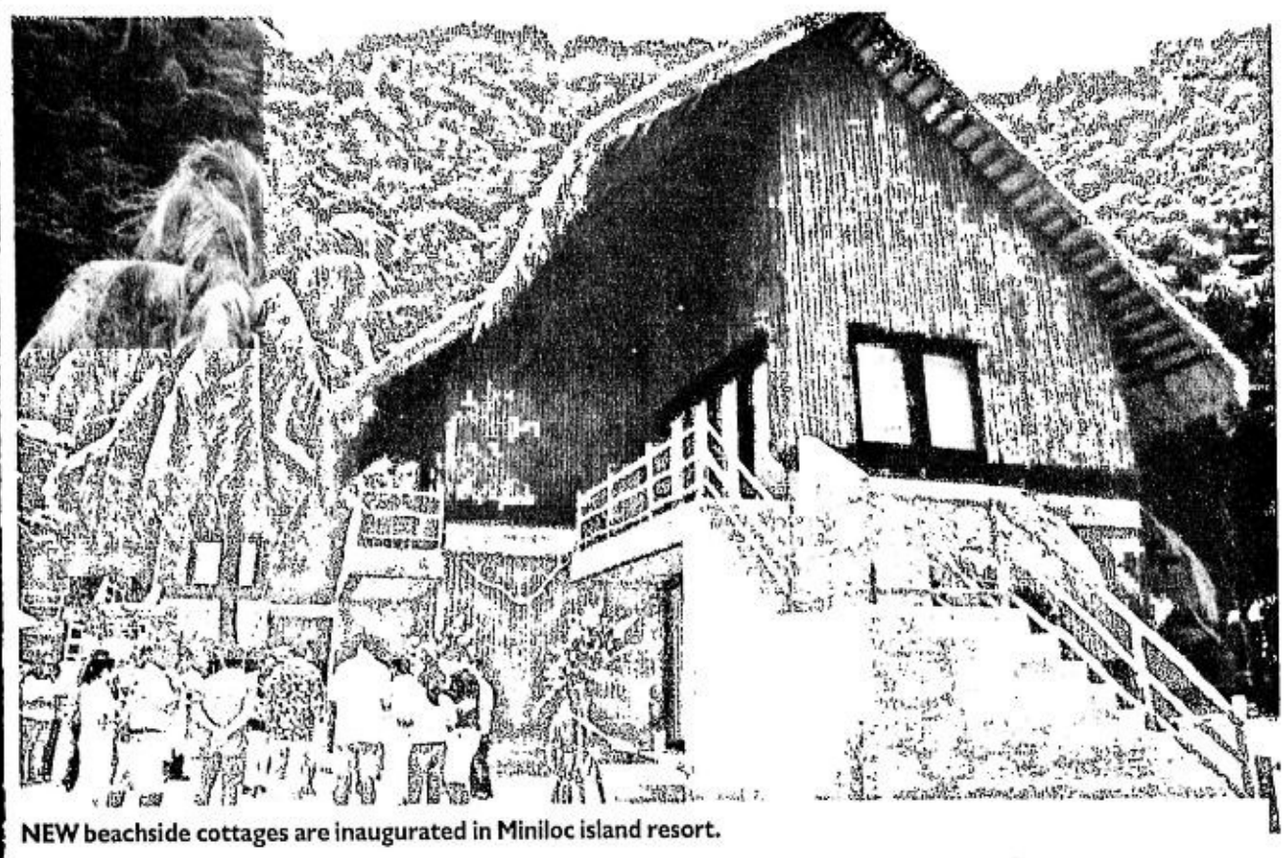
"How romantic, I will marry any guy who will propose to me in this setting," Renee says.

As the same twin-engine plane that took us here touches down on the same dirt strip to unload another set of visitors, I take a last glance of the silhouetted huge limestone rocks surrounding the El Nido resorts. With its steep price only politicians and rock stars can afford, this may be my last glimpse of Eden before the Fall.

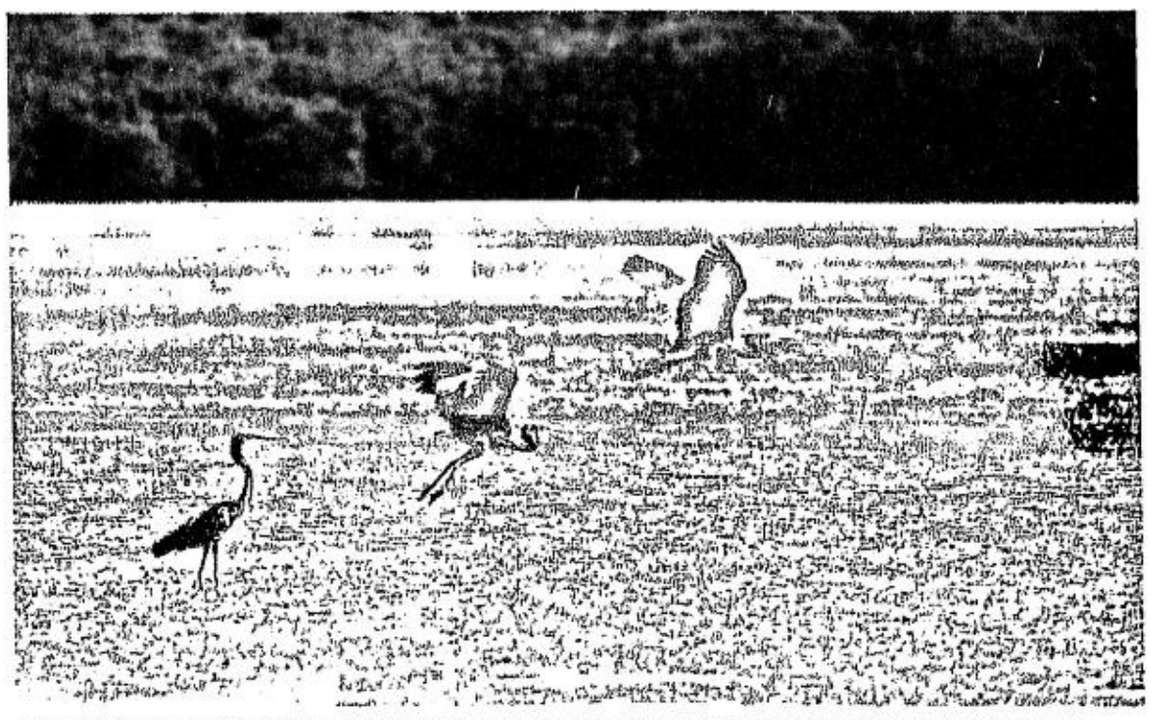


TWO live starfish in the shallow water of Snake Island in El Nido, Palawan

KAYAKING on the Big Lagoon surrounded by limestone cliffs



NEW beachside cottages are inaugurated in Miniloc island resort.



AN EASTERN Reef Egret takes flight to dive for food in this multiple-exposure photo taken in Snake island, one of 45 islands of El Nido in Palawan. Commonly found perched on rocks and mud flats, the reef egret extends its long neck as it darts for a fish or a crab. El Nido, a protected area, is host to more than 100 species of birds.

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PeopleSupport is now the **only** Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) services provider in the Philippines accredited by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), an association where only select travel agencies and airlines can claim membership.

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# TRAVELBRIEFS

## New plane for CDO

CEBU Pacific Air's brand-new 150-seater Airbus 319 now flies daily to Cagayan de Oro. CEB presented recently the A319 to Cagayan de Oro City officials. The airline also welcomed recently two brand new A320s and two A319s, as part of its ongoing refleeting program. CEB services the Manila-Cagayan de Oro route twice daily, leaving Manila at 5:10 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. From Cagayan de Oro, flights leave at 7:15 a.m. and 11:35 a.m.

## Great deal

NORTHWEST Airlines launches SmartPerks, a promotional tie-up with Pacsports, the exclusive distributor of Nike Golf in the Philippines. If you purchase a round-trip ticket from Manila to the US or Japan, until the period of Dec. 31, you will be given discount certificates of 50 percent (for world business-class passengers) and 25 percent (for economy-class passengers).
For new WorldPerks members buying tickets until Nov. 30 and traveling by Dec. 31, a free Nike Shirt will be given. Northwest Airlines flies twice daily from Manila to Japan with onward convenient connections to the US. Call NWA at 8418800.

## Anniversary event

VERDE Island Resort participated recently in the Batangas City Sublian Festival 2005 marking the 36th anniversary of Batangas City's founding. Delegates wore tropical island costumes and green-and-gold office uniforms. The resort is in Isla Verde, Batangas.

## Power meetings

THE BELLEVUE grand ballroom offers meeting packages for 150-800 participants. Call 7718181.

## Punta Fuego's destination spa

PENINSULA de Punta Fuego's Ylang Ylang Spa offers an array of massages and body treatments. Oils and potions all come from natural sources and prepared by hand.

## Vietnam's best luxury hotel

CARAVELLE Hotel in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam was voted recently the city's Best Luxury Hotel by The Guide, the tourism and hospitality magazine of the Vietnam Economic Times. Caravelle was also named Best Business Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City for the third consecutive year by readers of Business Traveller Asia Pacific. The Caravelle is managed by Faruma Hotels and Resorts International, Hong Kong.

## Fly to the US for free

OPEN an account with East West Bank until June 30, 2006, and earn a raffle entry for every P2,000 average collected daily balance.
The first raffle draw is on Feb. 1, 2006. At stake is a free trip for four to Los Angeles, California.

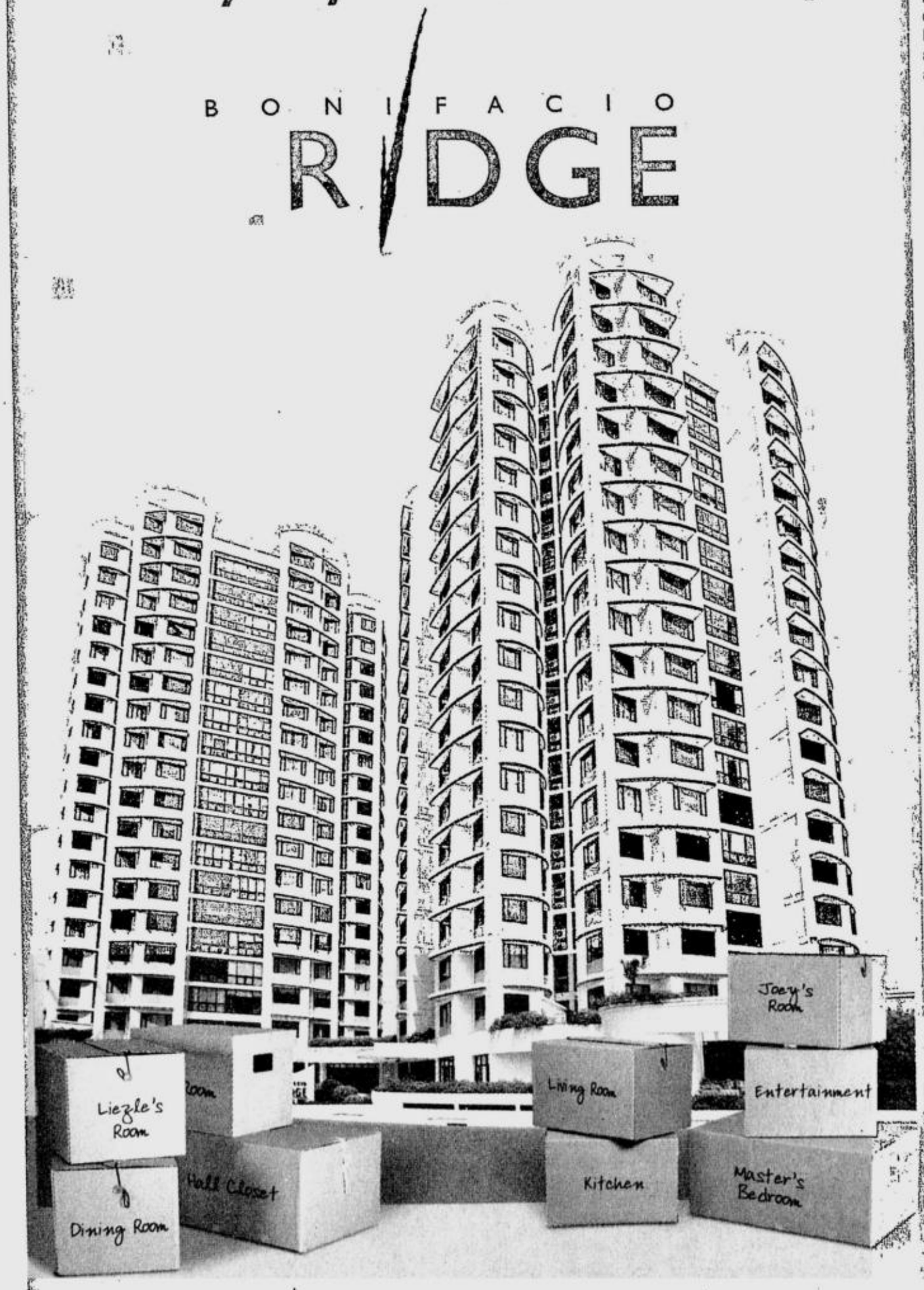
## Explore Laos and Thailand

THE ASIA Society Philippine Foundation Inc. invites everyone to The Magic of Mekong: Splendors of Ancient Laos and Northern Thailand, Nov. 10-18. The organization promotes awareness and appreciation of countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Call 7524374/8108983.

**AMENITY KIT**
**Philippine Airlines unveils this month a new amenity kit for First Class and Mabuhay (Business) Class passengers on long-haul flights. "A Touch of Luxury and Comfort" kits contain toiletries from Bulgari's Eau Parfume au The Vert collection. The new kit will be available on PAL-operated flights to North America, Australia and the Middle East.**


Everyday is move-in day

BONIFACIO RIDGE




With turnovers happening everyday, more and more people and families have begun to call home the exclusive Bonifacio Ridge condominium at the progressive Bonifacio Global City.
And the few units that remain are going fast.
So if you wish to be part of this thriving community, call us today.

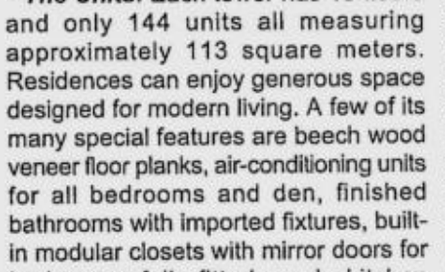



"Ready for Occupancy takes a whole new meaning at the Bonifacio Ridge"

More than a hundred residents are now calling Bonifacio Ridge their new home. It is fast becoming one of the most sought after addresses in the metro today. Why are residents so excited to move in?

• ***The Building***. The two towers of Bonifacio Ridge embody beauty and indulgence. Standing on 7,600 square meters of prime land in the northwestern part of Bonifacio Global City, Bonifacio Ridge is a beautifully crafted two tower residential condominium with a shared podium surrounded by exquisitely sculpted landscape and all the things that signify the good life.
• ***The Location***. Bonifacio Ridge is just minutes away from everything: schools, shopping and entertainment centers, restaurants, public services, office

spaces and soon a world-class hospital facility. Bonifacio Ridge is also just a five minute drive from Makati via the Kalayaan Flyover.
• ***The View***. A distinctive part of the Fort Bonifacio skyline, Bonifacio Ridge provides panoramic views that span the lush Manila Golf greens and the magnificent Makati Central Business District skyline.
• ***The Units***. Each tower has 18 floors and only 144 units all measuring approximately 113 square meters. Residences can enjoy generous space designed for modern living. A few of its many special features are beech wood veneer floor planks, air-conditioning units for all bedrooms and den, finished bathrooms with imported fixtures, built-in modular closets with mirror doors for bedrooms, fully fitted maple kitchen cabinets with accessories and plug-and-play cable and internet connections.
• ***The Surroundings***. Escape from the frantic pace of city life the moment you enter the lobby. With the hushed foyers nestled within a series of arbors and greens, there is plenty of room to relax, rest and breathe. The podium area also features a spectacularly landscaped garden that blends with the greeneries of the adjacent Manila Golf Club.
• ***The Lifestyle***: The building offers a variety of services and amenities designed to complement your busy lifestyle. Take a private dip in the pool, do a quick run at the jogging area or mingle with your neighbors at the multi-purpose hall. Children can also enjoy the kiddie pool and play area.



• ***The Professional Property Managers***. Ayala Property Management Corporation's seasoned and technical experts make moving and living in Bonifacio Ridge so easy and stress-free. For unit owners, they also offer facilities management and leasing services so there's no need to worry about your unit, even while you're away.

**Hurry!** There are only a few more units remaining so call 728-7000, email ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph, or log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph and be part of the Bonifacio Ridge Community. Model units are available for viewing on site at 1st Street, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila.

More employment opportunities in today's

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOB Market
Where You Find The Best.

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Developed by FORT BONIFACIO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# JOB Market

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2005
Philippine Copyright 1995
3 SECTIONS

**JOB** *Market* is exclusively for job advertisements.
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the
PHILIPPINE DAILY **INQUIRER**
published every Sunday and distributed in key cities
**RATES** (E-VAT exclusive)
P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
**DEADLINES**
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

Get a copy of
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(3 Sections)
on Sunday Issue
of Inquirer




# Pushing the Limits.
# Reaching new Heights.

Going above and beyond the competition. Surpassing boundaries. Knowing no limits. Each day, our employees drive to delight each and everyone of our customers. Ask any Dell employee and you'll hear it firsthand - we are the reason customers choose Dell. Because we are always thinking of what customers really want. Are you ready to be the reason?

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## MANAGERIAL

# BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER-RETAIL LOYALTY PROGRAMS

- **Multinational Company**
- **Excellent Career Opportunities**
- **Attractive Remuneration Package**

***The Company:***

Our client is the world's largest provider of retail marketing programs. Headquartered in Holland and with regional office in Hong Kong, they operate in more than 50 countries worldwide working with the leaders in the Grocery Retail, Petroleum, Convenience and Retail sectors. It will be setting up a representative office in the Philippines for which it seeks to appoint a senior level sales person.

***The Role:***

Reporting to the Regional Business Development Director based in Hong Kong, the Business Development Manager will be responsible for the successful roll-out and implementation of a loyalty program for a major client. He/She will be expected to work closely with the client ensuring that the marketing program will result in increased customer loyalty and ultimately, deliver desired Return on Investment.

Responsible for the company's P&L in the Philippines, the selected candidate will additionally be tasked to identify, initiate and secure other business opportunities in the Philippines by establishing long-term and mutually beneficial partnerships with key retailers.

***The Person:***

Equipped with a proven track record in consultative or solutions selling, the candidate should have prior experience in loyalty marketing, sales promotion, and direct marketing to the supermarket/hypermarket chains and retail sectors. The ideal candidate should have previously occupied a Senior-level role and has closed substantial deals linked to concepts that require substantial investment, but equally provide an attractive return. Possessing excellent communication, negotiation and presentation skills and with at least 10 years of experience under his/her belt, the candidate must demonstrate ability to work with clients' senior management and develop long-term business relationships.

Interested candidates should immediately send their latest resumes to **tina@asiapartners.net**

**ASIA *Partnership Philippines, Inc.***

***Executive Search Division***

*Level 16, Tower One, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City*
*Tel: 63 2 848-6595 Fax: 63 2 848-6510*

# Winrock International

*Putting Ideas to Work*

## Alliance for Mindanao and Multi-Regional Off-Grid Renewable Energy (AMORE 2) Program

# Chief of Party

Winrock International is seeking a candidate to lead the implementation of the **Alliance for Mindanao and Multi-Regional Off-Grid Renewable Energy (AMORE 2) Program.**

The AMORE 2 program supports electrification of rural communities using renewable energy systems in Mindanao, Philippines, with a special focus on community and social preparation, training and technical assistance, and renewable energy project development, installation and operation. The partners in the Alliance are the US Agency for International Development (USAID), Mirant Philippines, the Philippine Department of Energy, the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), and Winrock International.

The position will be based in Manila, with extensive travel throughout the Mindanao region.

The AMORE 2 COP will be responsible for: managing implementation of the program work plan; serving as liaison with USAID/Philippines, Alliance partners, and key collaborators; overseeing performance of program staff, subcontractors, and consultants; ensuring completion of required reports and deliverables on time and within budget; assuming program budget and financial accountability; and coordinating with Winrock headquarters on technical, managerial, financial, and administrative issues.

Interested candidates should meet all or most of the following requirements:

- ☐ a university degree in engineering, rural development, management, or business administration, or similar field, preferably at a graduate or post-graduate level;
- ☐ 15 years project implementation experience in rural development;
- ☐ thorough understanding of Philippine energy sector issues, including renewable energy-based rural electrification;
- ☐ experience in designing and implementing community organization, social preparation, and training programs in rural areas;
- ☐ prior experience as USAID Chief of Party or analogous management position in a project or program of similar scope;
- ☐ proven leadership and management skills;
- ☐ ability to work in a fast-paced environment, under very tight performance schedules;
- ☐ ability to manage a very diverse group of professionals and technicians and communicate well with rural communities;
- ☐ commitment to AMORE alliance goals of empowering communities and improving lives of people in the ARMM; and
- ☐ excellent written and oral communication skills both in English and Filipino.

Applications that include cover letter, resume, salary history and references should be sent to jobs@winrock.org and/or P.O. Box No. 12736 Ortigas Center, Pasig City by November 25.

Please visit www.winrock.org and www.amore.org.ph to learn more about Winrock International and the AMORE Program.

**FT**

**FINANCIAL TIMES**

The ***FINANCIAL TIMES***, one of the world's leading sources of business news and information, is expanding its Manila operation and requires additional staff for its data production team. The ideal applicants must meet the attributes and formal skills below and should be able to start as soon as possible.

# INFORMATION EDITORS

- Be highly skilled in Adobe Acrobat, Quark Express or other desktop publishing software packages
- Had exposure to data production or computerized newspaper operation
- Have a good working knowledge of XML
- Excellent comprehension and English writing skills and a high level of attention to detail
- Able to work on a variable shift schedule including weekends and holidays
- Able to meet tight production deadlines
- Graduate of any four- or five-year course
- Previous experience working for a multinational company

Qualified applicants should post their detailed resume, cover letter and most recent photograph not later than Monday, November 21, 2005, to **The HR & Administration Manager** at the following address:

**Financial Times Electronic Publishing Philippines Inc.**
42nd Floor, Philamlife Tower,
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Incomplete applications will not be processed
Visit our website www.ft.com

# Associate Accounting Analyst

### Responsibilities

The position supervises and acts as one of the systems accountants in providing functional support to Oracle Application system to ensure that users' requirements are met and the necessary internal control and documentation is addressed. Specific responsibilities include

- assisting in Oracle Application Modules including implementing system upgrades, by reviewing and analyzing users' requirements, identifying details gaps solutions, conducting fit analysis, communicating with Office of Information Systems and Technology (OIST) on related technical requirements, and assisting users in testing and training before promoting to production environment.
- analyzing and trouble shooting systems errors/problems encountered by Oracle users with the assistance of OIST.
- providing training and post implementation support to functional users of the Oracle systems, including processors, verifiers and approvers.
- supervising the set up and maintenance of the Internal Suppliers' Database and establishing and updating procedures and guidelines for the day-to-day operations of the Internal Suppliers' Database.
- providing inputs to the Department's activities relating to systems designs, users' requirements, etc, for new applications and related new projects.
- assisting in coordinating activities with different project teams throughout the project's implementation phases.
- arranging and attending meetings of assigned project teams, and preparing summary notes of minutes.
- assisting in reviewing business processes with a view to improve and enhance control and efficiency; monitoring project status and follow-ups with users and related parties to ensure timely implementation of project tasks.
- undertaking related system administration assignments as required.
- preparing draft status reports, correspondence, presentation materials, charts/graphs and other related documents and maintaining proper filing of project documentation.
- coordinating, facilitating, obtaining and providing required information in accordance with established procedures, in a tactful manner.
- performing any other assignments as required, including preparation of draft memoranda and external correspondence for supervisor's review.

### Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to the Financial Control Specialist, Financial Systems and Control Section (CTAC-FSC), CTL.

### Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level.
- a Bachelor degree in Computer Science or Business Administration with major in Accounting, preferably with a Certified Public Accountant or equivalent designation.
- at least five years experience in business application development or implementation, system designs and analysis, preferably with a minimum of three years working experience with Oracle Application software package.
- good understanding of internal control concepts and business processes so as to facilitate the evaluation of risk assessment and control, and to enable the application of accounting concepts appropriately.
- proficient understanding of general accounting concepts and principles, and their application.
- strong analytical and numerical skills, organization skill, and attention to detail.
- proficiency in the use of application softwares such as Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint); familiarity with Lotus Notes, Lotus Notes Mail; and in-depth knowledge with relevant working experience with Oracle system development and maintenance
- ability to plan and coordinate schedules in order to meet deadlines.
- excellent oral and written skills in English.
- proven supervisory and interpersonal skills; ability to promote teamwork and provide feedback to subordinate support staff and other colleagues.

**The Asian Development Bank's** vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-AS05-189(4)-CTAC-FSC** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **25 November 2005**.

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Asian Development Bank ADB

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One of the country's fastest growing consumer finance companies specializing in unsecured personal loans is in search of interested and **qualified agencies**, engaged in telemarketing and direct sales to offer and sell our loan products across key cities in the country. We are prioritizing interested agencies to operate in the following areas: **Makati, Manila, Quezon City, Caloocan, Pampanga, Calamba, Cavite, Muntinlupa, Binondo, Marikina and Cebu.**

Applicants may call us at: (02) - 864-8255, 9:00am to 6:30pm, Mondays to Fridays or email us at: **socorro.beltran@citigroup.com**

**WANTED IMMEDIATELY**

**SALES EXECUTIVES/SALES ENGINEERS**

1. Male or Female, below 30 years old, with pleasing personality and good PR.
2. College graduate of any 4-year course, preferably Engineering, Marketing, or Mass Comm.
3. Experience in the field of industrial or construction sales an asset but not necessary.
4. Honest, hardworking, aggressive and result-oriented.
5. Will receive basic salary plus commission.

Submit comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture at Unit 2002-C West Tower, PSE Center (Tektite Tower), Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

**MED-REP**

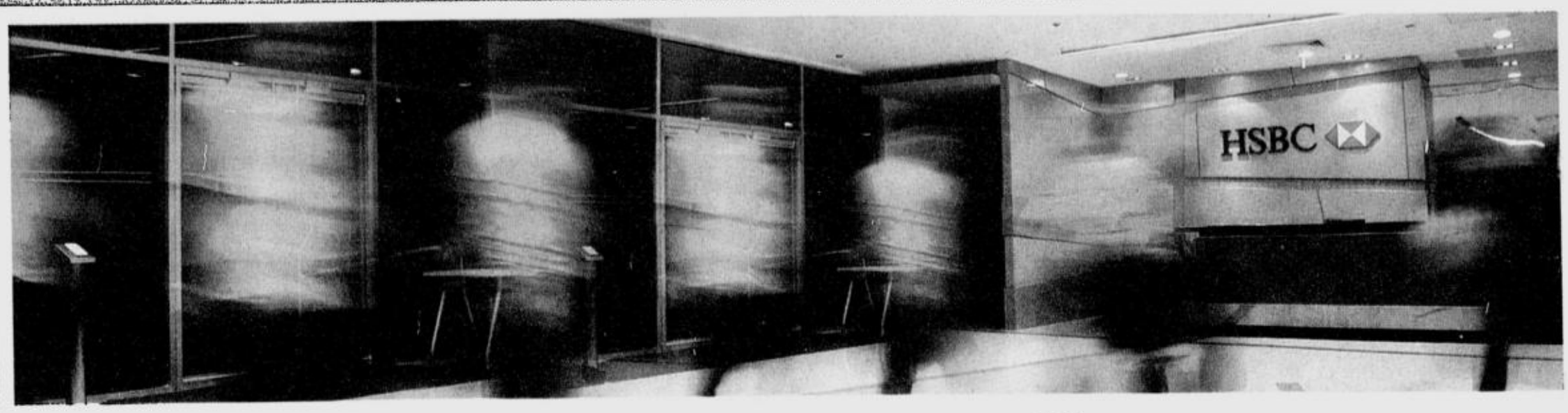
**for established Pharma company**

**Qualifications:**
College graduate
21 to 30 years old
Preferably w/ 1-year experience in sales.

**Compensation: Basic salary plus commission.**

Interested applicants may send their resumé w/ picture to:

**P.O. Box 167**
**Marikina Central Post Office,**
**Marikina City**

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Job security and career advancement are the reasons why you should join HSBC Electronic Data Processing (Philippines) Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc. and one of the several HSBC Group Service Centers around the world only serving HSBC customers. Working for HSBC Electronic Data Processing (Philippines) Inc. will give you the opportunity to be part of an international financial services company with operations in 77 countries and territories and a worldwide staff of more than 250,000. HSBC is an organization that provides extensive training and coaching, excellent facilities, attractive incentives and a great working environment.

If you're highly motivated and intent on pursuing a career in one of the fastest growing industries, come join our new and still expanding team.

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- **Collections Associates**
- **Workforce Analysts**
- **HR Associates**
- **Receptionists**

**We welcome**

- **Fresh graduates**
- **Customer service staff looking for a new and exciting career**
- **Experienced call center agents**
- **Those looking for a challenging job with attractive prospects and rewards**

**We require**

- Excellent English language skills and an openness to working shifting schedules

You may apply via e-mail to **servicecenterjobs@hsbc.com.ph** or personally visit any one of our two sites (Alabang or Makati). We welcome you to our **Open House**, Monday to Saturday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, at our Alabang or Makati site for **one-day processing**. **Get a job offer the same day.**

Note: Walk-in applicants must bring a copy of their resume, one 2x2 picture and photocopies of their last two payslips. HSBC is an equal opportunity employer.

**Top 5 reasons stated to joining HSBC Electronic Data Processing (Philippines) Inc.**

- Company stability
- Job security
- Career advancement
- Compensation, benefits and incentives
- HSBC's reputation in the marketplace

* Results of an internal survey conducted in the first week of November 2005

**Alabang site:**
**HSBC Electronic Data Processing (Philippines) Inc.**
5150 North Bridgeway corner Northgate Avenue
Northgate Cyberzone, Filinvest Corporate City
Alabang, Muntinlupa City 1781

**Makati site:**
**HSBC Electronic Data Processing (Philippines) Inc.**
39th Floor PBCom Tower
6795 Ayala Avenue corner V. A. Rufino Street
Makati City 1226

HSBC

# A World of High Incom[illegible]waits You..

## What we offer:

- A MINIMUM INCOME of P22,000 a month
- EARN P35,000.00 + + a month in commissions
- Captive BPO
- Large Work Areas With
  - 17" flat screen monitors
  - Personal 1-800 phone numbers
  - Personal FAX numbers

## *Qualifications for success:*

- *Must have at least Bachelor's/College degree in any business field, or equivalent*
- *Must have excellent Communication Skills and Sales Skills*
- *Highly intelligent and creative*
- *Able to structure/ analyze loans*
- *Great people person*
- *Hardworking*
- *No experience required-US Parent Company will train from scratch*
- *Only the best need apply*

## Currently we require:

**OPERATIONS MANAGERS**
**ACCENT COACH/TRAINERS**
**TEAM LEADERS**
**LOANS ANALYSTS**

**If you think you have what it takes, please drop by at our office for an interview on Mondays thru Fridays 9am - 3 pm, Saturdays and Sundays 12 pm - 4pm. Bring 2 copies of your resume with 2x2 picture attached at 16th floor CITIBANK Centre, Paseo de Roxas St., Makati.**

Your success story can be our next cover.
If you have what it takes to get promoted 2-3 times a year, solve complex problems and contribute to our fun and supportive environment, come and join us at eTelecare, the country's Employer of the Year.

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## URGENTLY NEEDED

**SALES EXECUTIVE(5)**
F/M, coll.grad, 20-32 y.o. w/ pleasing personality,pref. w/ excel. selling exp.; highly motivated,10K + COMM (salary); w/ leadership training , can work w/ min. supervision.

**BOOKKEEPER(5)**
Female; newly grad, 21-28 y/o; BSA Grad. w/ or w/o exp. Knowledgeable in BIR/SSS & other Gov. requirements.; w/ pleasing personality

**OPERATIONS MANAGER**
Female; 26-35 y.o. Coll. Grad.; Highly motivated to do sales, analytical, strategic & dynamic, result oriented w/ company vision; w/ pleasing personality. (HIGH SALARY+COMM). Exp. is a must.

**STORE MANAGER/OIC(4)**
Male/Female; 22-25 yrs; with pleasing personality; Coll. Grad w/ extensive sales exp. in handling retail store. Willing to be assigned (SM BACOOR, SM FAIRVIEW, ROBINSON TRAITA)

**POS/MIS OFFICER**
F/M Grad. Comp. Course; 21-30 y/o; w/ exp.;highly motivated & w/ pleasing personality

**SALES REPRESENTATIVES(20)**
M/F single 21-30 y.o; good and pleasing personality.
We prefer Born Again Christian/All must be Coll. Grad.
Pls. Prepare RESUME; DIPLOMA, TRO, EMP. CERT, NBI

# 1008 10th flr. Orient Square, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Ctr. (interview sched.) 9:00am-6:00pm M-F look for Gigi/Rowel
Tel.#6877564/6877580/09228131417/09225889322
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## DELTEK

Deltek Systems Philippines, Ltd.
Web address: http://www.deltek.com

A US based, leading provider of innovative software products has immediate openings for talented, dedicated, software professionals.

**COMPUTER SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS** Job code: CPDV

- Work with software development and quality assurance teams in the Philippines and the U.S to deliver software products of outstanding quality.

Requirements

- Four-year degree in Computer Science, IT, or related field.
- 2+ years working as a professional software developer using client-server technology such as Gupta SQLWindows, Centura/Gupta Team Developer, PowerBuilder, Oracle Developer, Delphi, Visual Basic, C/C++, or similar languages and tools.
- Excellent knowledge and skills with relational database management (RDBMS) systems and SQL. Experience with PL/SQL and Transact-SQL. Good understanding of data modeling and Entity-Relationship Diagrams (ERD)
- Education or experience in project accounting, financial accounting, payroll, inventory, or purchasing.
- Proven track record of learning new products and technologies.
- Previous involvement in all phases of the software development lifecycle.
- Strong analytical & problem-solving skills and ability to troubleshoot problems in a timely manner.
- Excellent proficiency in written and spoken English.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR RESUME TO:

DELTEK SYSTEMS PHILIPPINES, LTD.
25th Floor, Tower 2
The Enterprise Center
6766 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1200
Phone 632-886-5059
Email applicant@deltek.com

IMPORTANT: PLEASE SPECIFY JOB CODE AS SUBJECT IN YOUR E-MAIL

**A successful businesswoman and civic leader is in urgent need of an**

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

- Female, single, 21-30 years old
- Graduate from a top university Comptuer literate (MS Word, Excel, and Power Point)
- Excellent communication skills (English and Filipino)
- Can work under pressure with minimum supervision
- Willing to work long hours when necessary
- Willing to travel

Applicants should send their resumé with a recent 2x2 picture to:

**1006 Ground Floor, Manor Bldg. Arnaiz Ave., Makati City**

## SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- Male - Female
- Not more than 40 years old
- With Sales Experience
- Chemicals & General Merchandise
- With Car an Advantage

Please send Resumé at:
P.O. Box No. 2427 MCPO, Makati City

**MILLENIUM CHEMICAL RESOURCES**

A chemical firm engaged in Sales of Preventive Maintenance Chemicals Lubricants and Special Paints is in need of:

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- Female, single, not more than 27 years old with pleasing personality
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The successful candidate must value the importance of a long-term career profession, willing to handle work in a pressure-filled atmosphere, goal-oriented and self-motivated, and with efficient communication skills

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Tel. No. 928-1524 / 990-8881

## Voislink Corporation

**MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST**

**VOISLINK Corporation** is looking for trained medical transcriptionists, medical editors and any qualified individuals willing to undergo FREE Medical Transcription training.

**Qualifications:**

Graduate of Medical and allied courses like NURSING, PHYSICAL THERAPY, DENTISTRY, and other related courses (with or without a license) or a graduate of any bachelor's degree showing excellent skills and expertise in the English Language.

Qualified Applicants may send their letter of application, resumé with picture and transcript of records to:

**VOISLINK CORPORATION**
1607 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
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- Who have some background in community organization, especially around issues in the Alinsky tradition.
- Broader experience in academe, other types of NGO work, politics, government, or business.
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**PLEASE E-MAIL YOUR RESUMÉ to:**
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**or fax to 426-4118**

**MOF Company, Inc.**, exclusive agent of Hanjin Shipping Ltd. & Senator Lines in the Philippines, leading transport service companies engaged in general shipping operations, is URGENTLY in need of dynamic and energetic professionals.

**ACCOUNTING MANAGER**

- Male or Female, not more than 35 years old;
- Minimum of five (5) years accounting supervisory / managerial experience; preferably from a shipping industry;
- Computer literate & well verse in different accounting system;
- CPA, preferably with masteral studies;
- Excellent communication skills;
- Can work under pressure and longer period of time.

**SR. MARKETING MANAGER**

- Male or Female, not more than 35 years old;
- Minium of five (5) years sales or marketing supervisory / managerial experience; preferably from a shipping industry;
- Business Course graduate from a reputable College or University;
- Analytical, personable and outgoing with strong marketing sense;
- Excellent communication skills.

Qualified applicants are requested to personally apply for immediate testing and interview at:

**2nd Floor, CTC Bldg., 2232 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City**
*(Please look for Melai / Weng – Personnel Section)*
**Email: mbroberto@mof.com.ph / Tel. No. 5517530**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# JOB Market

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2005
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3 SECTIONS

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- possesses proficient basic computer skills
- open to working odd hours
- courteous, attentive, and able to develop rapport
- dependable and has good work ethic
- detail-oriented
- fluent in English and highly conversational
- problem solver

**CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVE FOR INBOUND CUSTOMER SERVICE WITH UPSELLING**

- ability to identify customer needs
- ability to learn and apply procedures
- comfortable with sales
- detail-oriented

**CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVE FOR FINANCIAL PROGRAM**

- ability to discover customer needs
- preferably took a business-related course in college
- banking experience is an advantage
- detail-oriented
- possesses good analytical skills

**CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVE FOR OUTBOUND CUSTOMER SERVICE**

- preferably with 6 months call center/telemarketing experience, but not required
- customer service that requires upselling (after sales follow up calls)
- ability to establish good rapport
- above average communication skills

**TECHNICAL CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVE**

- possesses proficient basic computer skills
- open to working odd hours
- courteous, attentive, and able to develop good rapport
- dependable and has good work ethic
- detail-oriented
- fluent in English and highly conversational
- knowledgeable in DSL, internet, and networking

**TEAM LEADER**

- at least 1 year previous experience as a supervisor/team leader
- bachelor's degree in a related field
- call center/customer service background is preferred
- strong ability to maximize performance
- willing to be assigned in any location

**OPERATIONS MANAGER**

- at least 2 years supervisory experience in managing the performance of others in a call center or multinational company
- can communicate with all levels of management
- experience in managing functional work groups
- willing to be assigned in any location

**See us at the following job fairs:**

November 13: Netopia Robinson's Place
3/F Robinson's Place Ermita, Manila
November 14-15: UP Palma Hall, UP Raketista
November 17-18: Fountain Are, Robinson's Galleria Mall
November 18-20: Activity Center, Ayala Center Cebu
November 19-20: Robinson's Galleria
LG/F Space 5, Park Avenue,
EDSA cor. OrtigasAve., Quezon City
- Netopia Greenbelt
G/F Greenbelt 1 Mall, Ayala Center, Makati City
- SM Sucat
3/F Unit 318-319, SM Supercenter Sucat, Dr. A. Santos Ave., San Dionisio, Sucat Road, Paranaque City
- Shopwise Cubao
G/F Unit 8-9, Shopwise Arcade, Shopwise Cubao, Aranota Center, Cubao, Quezon City

All Applicants are required to bring a copy of their resume and a 2x2 ID photo

For customer care vacancies, please pay us a visit, call 8577760 or email your resume to philippinesrecruitment@convergys.com.
For technical customer care positions, call 6318230 or email your resume to hro@teledevelopment.com.

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#4 ADB Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
(02)857-7588

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Block 44, Northgate Cyberzone
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(02)758-1688

Commonwealth Office
Dillman Commercial Center
#46 Don Mariano Marcos Ave.
Dillman, Quezon City
(02)931-3710

Makati Office
8th Floor, Tower 2
The Enterprise Tower
Ayala Avenue, Makati City
(02)857-7788

Cebu Office
R. Arcenas Street
Arcenas Estate, Banawa Hills
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## Customer Care Analysts (CCA)

**Qualifications:**
- Bachelor's degree holder in any of the following disciplines with above average scholastic performance:
  - IT/ Computer courses
  - Commerce courses
  - Communication courses
- Must possess exceptional English communication skills
- High analytical ability and comprehension skills
- Call center experience is a big plus
- Results-driven and can work under pressure
- Proficient in MS Office applications
- Willing to work in graveyard shift

## Customer Care Team Leaders (CC-TL)

**Qualifications:**
- Graduate of any four or five-year courses
- Excellent English communication skills
- Must possess high analytical ability and comprehension skills
- Must have at least 6 months to1 year supervisory work experience. Preferably with knowledge in Financial Transactions processing
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- Proficient in MS Office applications
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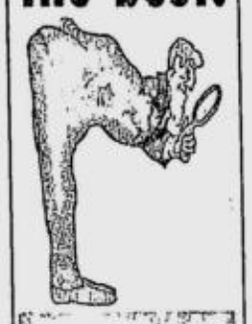

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2030 GG Cruz St., cor. Aguara St., Baclaran, Paranaque
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Email: baclaran@go2canada.com

**CUBAO**
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Gen. Roxas St., Araneta Center, Cubao
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Email: baguio@go2canada.com

**SM City Bagulo Branch**
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**CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY**
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Email: cagayandeoro@go2canada.com

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Phone: (032) 2340111
Email: cebu@go2canada.com

**DAGUPAN CITY**
G/F Floren Hotel, Rizal St. Dagupan City
Phone: (075) 5158155 / 0920-5816431 / 0917-9077761
Email: dagupan@go2canada.com

**DAVAO CITY**
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Phone: (082) 2225183 / 3051714 • Fax: (082) 3051661
Email: davao@go2canada.com

**DUMAGUETE CITY**
89 Corner Real and San Juan Streets, Dumaguete City
Phone: (035) 4220038
Email: dumaguete@go2canada.com

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Rm. 404 - 4th floor, Perpetual Succour
Business Center, Jalandoni St., Iloilo City
Phone: (033) 5090811
Email: iloilo@go2canada.com

**NAGA CITY**
3/F Bichara Theater Mall Gen. Luna St., Naga City
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## FREE SEMINARS & ASSESSMENT
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- Baclaran - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM - See contact details above.
- Cubao - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM - See contact details above.
- Malate - Mondays to Saturdays @ 10AM & 2PM - See contact details above
- Makati City - Monday to Thursday @ 8AM - 9PM - See contact details above.
- Robinson's Galleria - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM - See contact details above.
- West Avenue, Quezon City - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM, 5PM - See contact details above.

**PROVINCIAL SEMINARS**
- NAGA CITY - Wed @ 10AM, 2PM & 5PM / Sat @ 10AM & 2PM - See contact details above
- DAGUPAN CITY - Daily @ 10AM & 2PM - FREE Seminar & Assessment - See contact details above
- November 19 - ANGELES CITY @4PM - Marlim Mansion, Balibago, Angeles City
- November 19 - MEYCAUAYAN, BULACAN @2PM - Phase 3-A Sto Niño Barangay Hall Covered Court,
- November 19 - SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA @ 9AM - Bahay Kamayan Restaurant Olongapo Gapan Rd.,
- November 19 - LAOAG CITY @10AM (FREE) - La Ellana Hotel Rizal St. cor Ablan Ave., Ilocos Norte
- November 19 -TUGUEGARAO CITY @ 10AM - Admiral's Restaurant #29 Rizal St., Tuguegarao City
- November 20 - NUEVA VISCAYA @ 2PM - Bread 'n Bites - National Highway Solano Nueva Vizcaya
- November 20 - VIGAN, ILOCOS SUR @ 10AM (FREE) - #1 Maria Crisologo St. Vigan Ilocos Sur
- November 20 - LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA @ 10AM - ANEST TOWER, 10411 Grove College, Los Baños, Laguna
- November 26 -LIGTASAN, TARLAC CITY @ 9AM - La Maja Rica Hotel Mc Arthur Hiway, Ligtasan, Tarlac
- November 26 -LIPA CITY, BATANGAS @ 9AM - Max's Restaurant-Pres. Laurel Hiway, Pilahan Sabang, Lipa City
- November 26 SANTIAGO, ISABELA @ 2PM - King George Hotel, Bonifacio Ave. Cor. Maharlika Highway, Victory Norte Santiago City
- November 26 - MALOLOS CITY, BULACAN @9AM - Hiyas Convention Center, Capitol Cmpd. Malolos Bulacan

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- Male or Female
- Graduate of a 4-year college course
- Between 25-35 years old
- Knowledgeable and experienced in ISO 9001:2000 set-up and implementation preferably on a service industry environment
- Minimum one (1) year experience in the same position and on a multinational setting is an advantage
- Knowledge in ISO 14001 system is an advantage

## CREWING OFFICERS ( 2 )
- Male
- Graduate of Marine Transportation or Marine Engineering Course (B.S. Degree)
- Holder of a Management Level Certificate – Minimum Chief Mate or 2nd Engineer experience
- Between 28-35 years old
- With experience on a multinational work environment

## EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
- Female
- Graduate of any 4-year college course
- Minimum one (1) year experience in the position
- With experience working on a multinational setting
- Between 25-35 years old

## DOCUMENTATION SUPERVISOR
- Female
- Graduate of any 4-year college course
- Minimum one year experience in a recruitment agency
- Between 25-35 years old

## DOCUMENTATION ASSISTANTS ( 3 )
- Female
- Graduate of any 4-year college course
- Between 21-30 years old
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply
- Working experience in a recruitment or travel agency is an advantage but not mandatory for the position

## ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS ( 2 )
- Female
- Graduate of Accountancy
- Between 23-30 years old
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply
- Work experience is an advantage but not mandatory for the position

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ TO:

THE MANAGER - HR & ADMINISTRATION
PRIME MERIDIAN HR CONSULTANCY, INC.
Suite 1022 Cityland Herrera Tower
98 V.A. Rufino Street Cor. Valero Street
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. No.: 894-4494
E-mail: primerhr@pacific.net.ph

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FOR CYPRUS URGENTLY NEEDS THE FOLLOWING:

**DOMESTIC HELPERS**
>> Female, 25-40 years old
>> At least high school graduate
>> With related working experience abroad
>> Conversant in English
>> Hardworking, Patient & w/ desirable attitude

**REGISTERED NURSES**
>> Female, 25-38 years old
> 153 cm. in height
> With at least 2 yrs. related working experience in hospital
> Willing to work in hospital for long hours
>> Conversant in English

Preliminary Interview is conducted daily
Requirements: (old & new) Police clearance, 4pcs. 2x2, 2 whole body pictures. Pictures w/ previous employers & certificate of employment

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FOR BEIRUT LEBANON URGENTLY NEEDS

**DOMESTIC HELPERS**
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>> At least high school graduate
>> With or without experience
> Can speak and understand English
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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
IMPLEMENTING TASK FORCE

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(In compliance with RA 941)

(2) Project Development Officer IV – (SG 22); Item No. PA-BEAM Stage 2 –PCU-2-1 and 2-2; Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; 3 years of relevant experience; 16 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional (Optional)

(2) Project Development Officer III – (SG 18); Item Nos. PA-BEAM Stage 2-PCU-3-2 and PMU-3-1; Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; 2 years of relevant experience; 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional (optional)

(1) Project Development Officer II – (SG 15); Item No. PA-BEAM Stage 2-PMU-4-1; Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; 1 year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional (optional)

(1) Project Development Officer I – (SG 11); Item No. PA-BEAM Stage 2-PCU-6; Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; experience and training none required; Eligibility: Career Service Professional (optional)

(1) Computer Operator III – (SG 12); Item No. PA-BEAM Stage 2- PCU-5; Completion of two years studies in college or High School Graduate with relevant vocational/trade course; 2 years of relevant experience; 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional or Data Encoder (optional)

Applicants for the vacant positions are willing to work in Davao and Cotabato City.

Deadline for submission of application is November 25, 2005.

Please send comprehensive resumé and credentials to the following address:

**Dir. Susana B. Estigoy**
Philippine Project Manager
PA-BEAM Stage 2 – Project Management Unit
DepED RO XI
REMCO National Center
F. Torres St., Davao City

*A fast growing Call Center equipment and Mobile Devices distributor needs to immediately fill current expansion positions:*

## Sales Manager
M/F, not more than 40 years old, excellent sales & management skills
Capable to lead by example, proven sales track record
Can handle monthly sales pressure and group quota

## Dealer / Channel Sales Manager
M/F, not more than 35 years old, good sales skills and articulate
Aggressive, self-starters, ability to establish new / grow present accounts
Previous mobile devices / office automation product experience a great plus
Experience in dealing with retail chain stores a definite advantage

## Account Executives
M/F, not more than 30 years old, good communication skills
Good sales skills, dynamic, willing to be trained
Can work under pressure and minimal supervision

*This requirement is immediate.* Please hand carry Resumé/Biodata with picture. For interview Monday to Wednesday at 5/F Enterprise Bldg., 524 Quintin Paredes St., Binondo, Manila (near Binondo Church and above Banco de Oro). Or email resumé with picture to: comlan@pacific.net.ph

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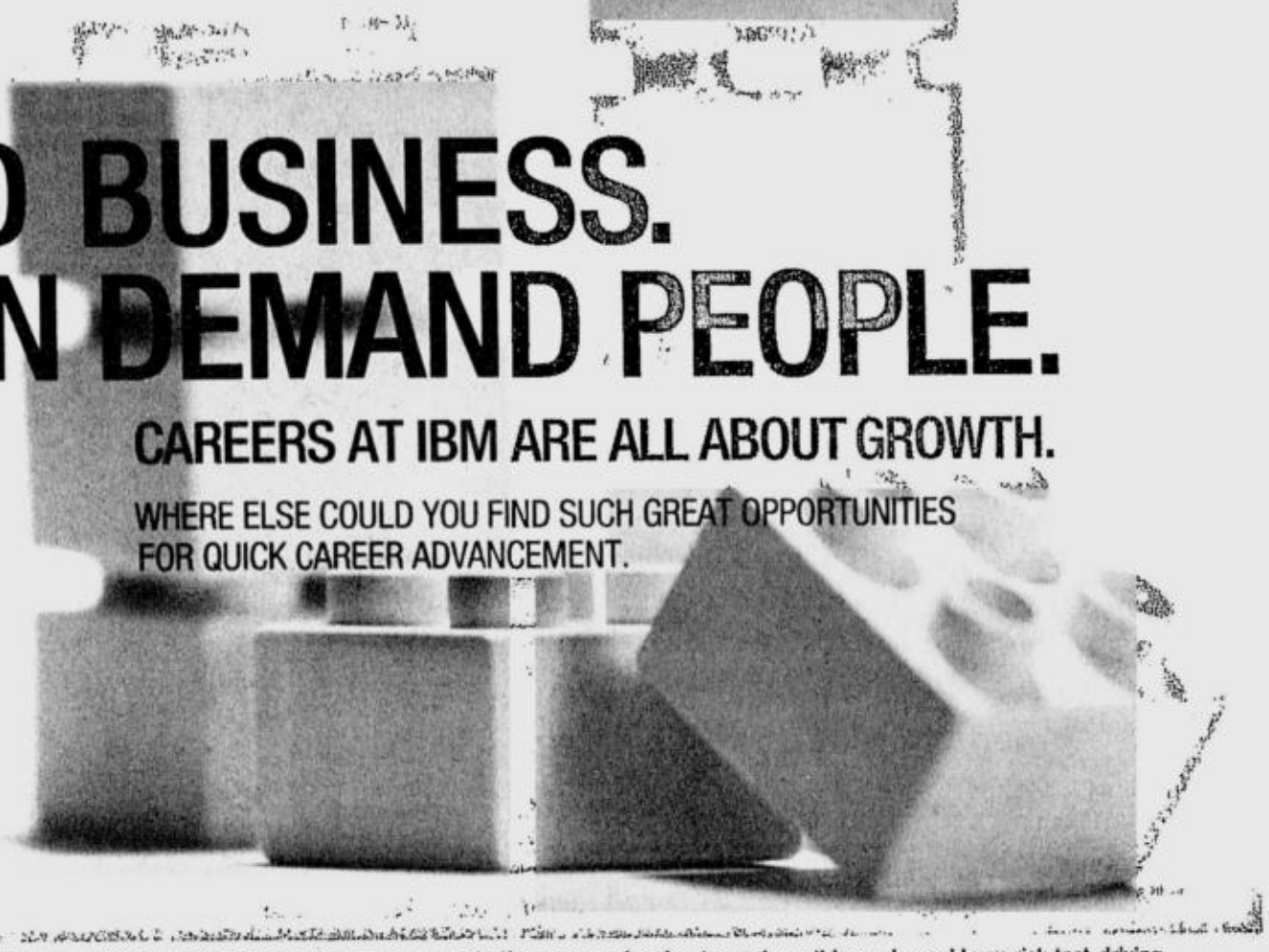

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- Web Portal (Email Support)
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- Graduate of any Bachelor's degree
- Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Call center experience is an advantage
- Proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule-shifting environment

Support & Leadership Posts

- Operations Manager
- Team Leaders
- Workforce Managers
- Workforce Specialists
- Quality Manager
  - Quality Management Systems
- Quality Assurance Specialists
- Quality Consultant (speaks Thai)
- Deputy Manager - Sourcing
- Data Analyst
- IT Operations Managers
- IT Helpdesk Manager
- Security & Policies Manager
- Data Network Specialists
- Voice Network Specialists
- Systems Administrators
- Helpdesk Technical Support
- HR Manager
- Implementation Manager

Call center experience is a must for support and leadership posts.

Catch us at

| | |
|---|---|
| IBM Daksh Recruitment Center<br>17/F Equitable PCI Tower<br>Paseo de Roxas Avenue, Makati City | Monday to Friday (9 AM - 8 PM)<br>Saturday (9 AM - 6 PM) |
| Marikina Job Fair<br>Marikina City Hall | November 16-18, 2005<br>10 AM - 6 PM |
| Angeles City Hall Job Fair<br>PESO Training Center<br>New City Hall, Pulung Maragul,<br>Angeles City, Pampanga | November 14-15, 2005<br>10 AM - 6 PM |

Call our Recruitment Hotline:
840-6020
or email your resume to:
applications@daksh.com.ph

## World Vision International

World Vision

We are a Christian relief and development organization dedicated to helping children and their communities worldwide reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty. We serve the world's poor - regardless of a person's religion, race, ethnicity, or gender. World Vision helps transform the lives of the world's poorest children and families in nearly 100 countries, including the United States. We are looking for a Christian professional whose faith and values match our mission with the poor. If you're ready to see how you can make a global impact with your professional experience and talent as:

### OPERATIONS EVALUATOR

Reporting to the Evaluation Services Manager, the purpose of the job is to plan, perform, report and follow-up on specific operational audit assignments; and to plan and perform evaluation assignment.

The candidate must likely to have:

- A University/College degree or equivalent knowledge, skills and abilities acquired through a combination of formal schooling, self-education, prior experience or on the job training.
- A substantial knowledge and experience in evaluating community development programs in developing countries - monitoring and evaluation theory and techniques, statistics, quantitative and qualitative research method and community development principles.
- Cross – cultural experience
- Training and experience in facilitating non-formal adult learning
- Willingness to learn relevant knowledge about accounting and internal audit
- Good interpersonal skills
- Above average communication skills in oral and written English
- Language skills in Spanish or French preferred
- Willingness to do international travel – 20 weeks per year
- 5 - 8 years of experience

We highly prefer matured Christian and open to ecumenical orientation. Qualified candidates may send their letter of application and comprehensive resume' with picture detailing work history to: theresa_ramos@wvi.org or write to WORLD VISION DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, c/o Human Resources Department (Attn: Tere Ramos), 883 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, 1104 Philippines

## For Immediate Hiring

### Japanese Language Teacher

**The candidate would be:**

- Female, must be between 30 to 45 years old
- Must have a license as a Japanese Language Teacher

**Skills Requirements:**

- Can produce excellent student in Japanese language
- Good skills in reading and writing Kanji is an advantage

Interested applicant must submit their application letter, bio-data with 2x2 picture to:

**MAJESTIC TECHNICAL SKILLS DEV'T & LANDSCAPE CORP.**
Lot 38 Malunggay Road, FTI Complex, Taguig City
(02) 837-9784

**FOR SY 2006!**

*The Palmridge School* CITTA ITALIA, MOLINO, CAVITE

*Montessori De Manila* BF EXECUTIVE VILLAGE, LAS PIÑAS CITY

is inviting all qualified graduates who are well-motivated, dedicated individuals and who enjoy working with children in the Primary, Elementary and Secondary levels for advance screening for our expansion program

**BS Early Childhood Education, BSEEd, and BSE** (All subject areas)

- From a reputable school with good scholastic performance
- Preferably LET Passer and/or with M.A. Units
- Excellent communication and human relation skills
- Good moral background

**Secretaries/Encoders/Office Staff/Guidance Counselor/HR Personnel**

- College graduate of any business course / Computer literate

Interested applicants may send the following:

- Letter of Intent / Curriculum Vitaé / Transcript of Records / Two 2x2 photos

THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
#73 P. Roman St., BF Executive Village, Las Piñas City 1740

## FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

### MARKETING OFFICER

for a progressive restaurant in Mandaluyong and Makati area

- ✓ Female, 21-30 years old
- ✓ College graduate
- ✓ Pleasing personality
- ✓ Conversant in English
- ✓ Preferably with customer service or restaurant marketing experience, but those with no experience are also welcome to apply

Applicants are requested to send a copy of their comprehensive resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 I.D. picture to:

**Fax #: 5231358, 5246788**
**Email Address: marina_royale@yahoo.com**

## London Shipping Agents Corporation

**Urgently Needed**

- Master
- Chief mate
- 2nd mate
- 3rd mate
- AB
- Bosun
- Chief Engineer
- 2nd Engineer
- 3rd Engineer
- 4th Engineer
- Seaman

Must have: COC, ISM & ISPS certificates
Apply personally in our office with all supporting documents.
4th flr. Doña Yolanda Bldg.
7165 Marcelo Ave. Marcelo Green Village
Sucat, Parañaque City
Tel. 821-58-68

We are holding another Open House Recruitment from Nov 14-18 to give you the chance to land the job of your dreams!

## Positions Available:

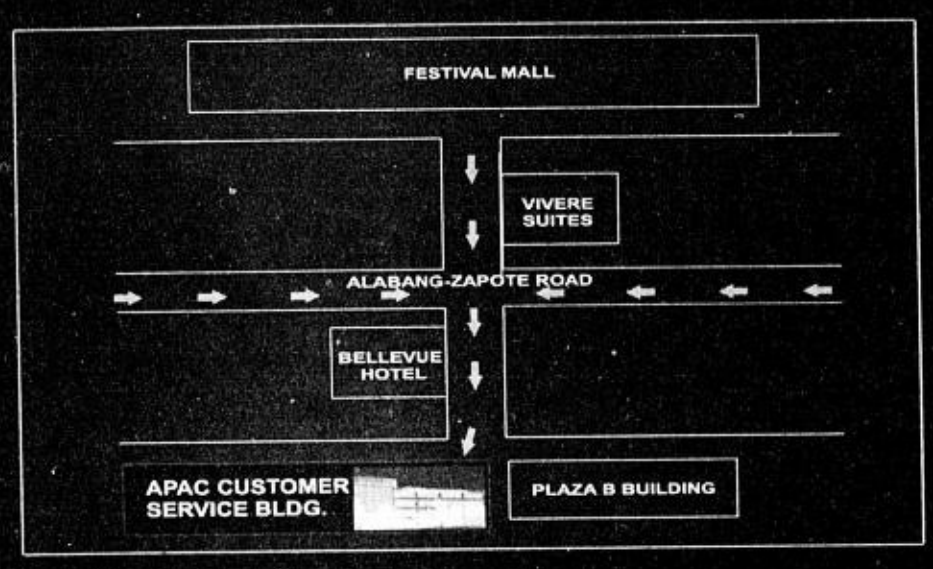
- Customer Service Representatives
- Telephone Service Representatives
- E-Help Desk Representatives

**Qualifications:**

- Graduate of a 4-year course preferably with customer service and or sales experience
- **Tourism degree and/or work experience in the travel, tourism and hospitality industry is preferred for our new travel account**
- PC literate with MS Office Products
- Can type at least 25 wpm
- Possesses excellent oral and written communication skills

**You will enjoy the following benefits:**

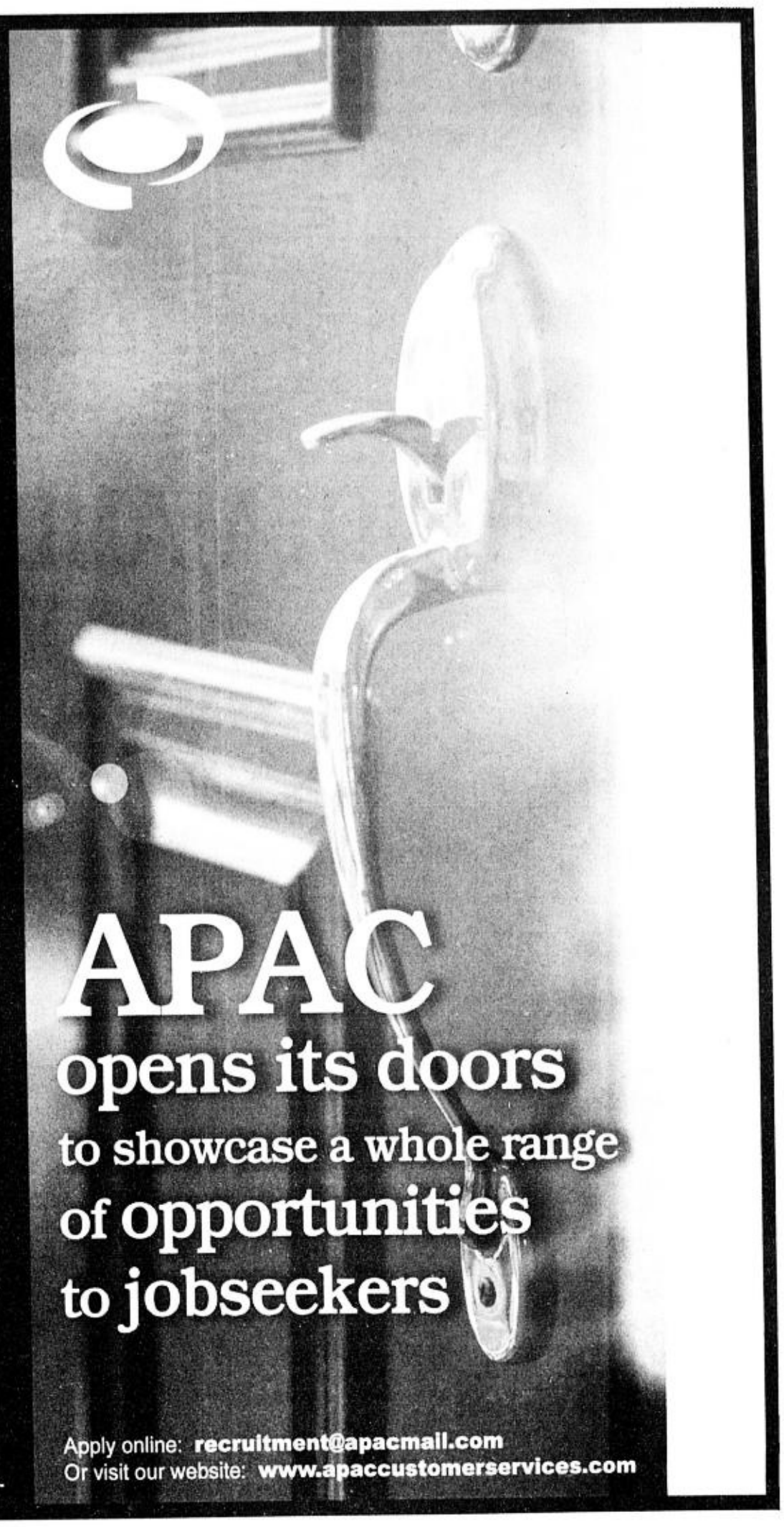
- Highly competitive starting salaries
- Meal and transportation allowances
- Health and life insurance
- Paid commission and or bonuses where applicable
- Travel and training opportunities abroad
- Aggressive internal promotion
- The latest tools, cutting edge protocols and the newest development environments
- **P5,000 hiring bonus after training**




**Come and see us at:**

Plaza C, Northgate Cyberzone, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa
Mondays thru Fridays, from 9 am to 6 pm
Or call us at: 7576500 or 7576566

APAC Customer Services, Inc.




## Oxfam

**Oxfam GB's purpose is to work with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering**

**Oxfam Great Britain's Philippine Programme needs a**

### Programme Officer – Humanitarian Policy and Practice

In line with Oxfam Great Britain's strategic plans and policy guidelines, Oxfam wishes to build its organizational capacity and partners capacity to continue to respond to disasters both natural and complex in the Philippines. Oxfam also wishes to have a greater impact on humanitarian policies and practices in the Philippines context. Thus, the post will form a focal point within the organization to achieve this purpose.

**Key Responsibilities**

**National level Policy & Practices Changes to development structures and Humanitarian practices**

- Consolidate and complete mapping, of perceived capacity gaps in humanitarian policies and practices in the Philippines as well as key development structures relating to natural and complex disasters.
- Clarify based on Oxfam's current work and strategic direction specific policy and practice changes, identified needs which will add value to current structures.
- Identify based on Oxfam's current policies, criteria for partner selection, allowing for the promotion and growth of appropriate innovate ideas.
- Identify possible partners using multiplier effects as part of criteria.
- Using Oxfam guidelines, guide development of partnerships and contract within programme cycle.

**Changes to Humanitarian Practices**

- Consolidate and complete mapping of key innovative players in Oxfam core humanitarian sectors relating to both natural and complex disasters
- Clarify based on Oxfam's current work in policy and practice changes which will add value to the current structures
- Identify based on Oxfam's current policies, criteria for partner selection
- Identify possible partners using multiplier effects as part of criteria
- Using Oxfam guidelines guide development of partnerships and contact within programme cycle

**Core Competencies:**

- Mature understanding of development work in the Philippines preferably in natural disaster management
- Conceptual, critical and analytical thinking
- Initiative and drive to achieve results
- Ability to work effectively with others
- Adaptable and flexible

**Essential Specifications**

- At least three years work experience with local NGO's or experience in promoting and growing innovation
- Proven track record in innovation
- Have knowledge of the development situation in the Philippines. including social, economic and political issues
- Have knowledge and understanding of Programme cycle management
- Understanding of gender issues in development and commitment to promoting gender equality
- Experience in strategic and programme planning; skills and experience of monitoring, evaluation and appraisal
- Ability to work on own initiative to build on and develop the job, combined with the ability to work effectively as part of a team
- Fluency in written and spoken English
- Good oral and written communication skills and an ability to relate to people from all backgrounds
- Willingness to travel frequently, sometimes in remote areas for extended periods, to visits projects and partners.

The post is for an six (6) months assignment. Interested applicants should submit their application letter with complete CV to:

**The Human Resources and Administrative Officer**
**OXFAM GREAT BRITAIN**
**95-A Malumanay Street**
**Teacher's Village**
**Diliman, Quezon City 1101**
**FAX: 927-0499 email: etadeo@oxfam.org.uk**

Deadline of application 18 November 2005

**ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CALLED FOR INTERVIEW**

FOUR (4) US-FUNDED, REPUTABLE, NOT-FOR-PROFIT WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS ARE CURRENTLY IN URGENT NEED OF

## A Communications Coordinator for each of four local agencies

**Responsible for:**

- Overseeing of and coordinating each agency's public relation efforts
- Undertaking promotion of the agencies' mission-vision and programs & services
- Sharing information among and between agencies and funding agency's headquarters in the U.S.A.
- Coordinating Visits by International & Local Executives & Evaluators
- Promoting Funding Agency's & Local Agencies' Image and Marketing Efforts
- Two agencies based in Quezon City
- Two agencies based in Albay, Bicol

• ATTRACTIVE COMPENSATION PACKAGE BASED ON UNDP STANDARDS PROVIDED TO QUALIFIED HIREES

Applicants should be Journalism graduates of reputable schools, with excellent computer skills, honest & hardworking with listed references, residing in Metro Manila or in Bicol or willing to be relocated to Albay, Bicol
Prior job experience in related position for at least 5 years is an advantage

*Previous applicants need not apply*

PLEASE SEND/EMAIL YOUR APPLICATION LETTER AND RESUMÉ WITH YOUR PHOTO NOT LATER THAN NOV. 25, 2005 TO:

**BOX QC 2005-62**
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F St. Anthony's Bldg., 891 Aurora Blvd. cor. Oxford St., Cubao, Quezon City and
Manila : careers@mla.children.org.ph
Quezon City : applicants@qzn.children.org.ph
Tabaco : applications@tab.children.org.ph
Legaspi : job@leg.children.org.ph

## SYTENGCO

The leading chemicals and raw materials provider in the Philippines is currently seeking for competent, aggressive and dedicated professionals to join our dynamic, team for our company's expansion to fill-in the following positions:

### FINANCE MANAGER

- Candidate must possess a Bachelor s degree in Banking and Finance, a CPA is an advantage
- At least 5 years experience in Finance or related field
- Knowledgeable in cash flow and receivables management, financial planning/analysis, budgeting and cash forecasting. Experience in audit, short terms investments, execution of fund transfer and other forms of payments
- Must possess good work ethic and excellent communication skill
- Willing to work long hours; trustworthy, honest, flexible, can easily adopt to a challenging work environment

### ACCOUNTING MANAGER

- Candidates must be Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- At least five years working experience as Accounting Manager, experience in auditing is an advantage
- Knowledgeable in Financial Accounting/strategies and other areas of accounting, reportional reporting with BIR, SEC & DTI and abreast with municipal licenses in government offices
- Can represent the company with government offices particularly BIR
- With supervisory skills and capable of handling multi-tasking
- Proficient in MS, Excel and other accounting software, specially quick books
- Willing to work long hours; trustworthy, honest, flexible, can easily adopt to a challenging work environment
- Female not over 35 years of age

### ACCOUNTANT (5)

- Graduate of BS Accountancy
- With at least 1 year experience in Financial Accounting and other areas of Accounting but fresh graduates are welcome
- Preferably female, 25-28 years old
- Proficient in MS, Excel and other accounting software, specially quick books
- Willing to work long hours; trustworthy, honest, flexible, can easily adopt to a challenging work environment
- Can work with minimum supervision

Due to urgent requirements, we are requesting all interested applicants to hand carry their comprehensive resumé with recent 2x2 picture and TOR (original and photocopy) and please come in proper business attire at

Human Resources Department (HRD)
**SYTENGCO ENTERPRISES CORPORATION**
10 Rest haven Street, San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City
during 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Monday to Friday or you may contact us at:
Tel. Nos. 371-1111 loc. 118 / 3718890 look for Ms. Nelie or email us
hrd@sytengco.com

## SALES ASSOCIATES

*for*

**Citibank, N.A.**

***Accredited Service Providers***

World class training, travel opportunities and high income potential

- College graduate, customer-oriented, assertive with excellent communication skills
- A 1-year experience in Direct Sales is a plus!
- Preferably with a network of high income level prospects.

Submit your resumé, NBI clearance and picture at Suite 1101 Antel Global Corporate Center, #3 Doña Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Look for Ms. Liezl.

Income is based on a **fixed salary per month** and variable commissions depending on actual sales solicited.

Fourth Rock INFORMATION SOLUTIONS

**24-E Summit One Tower**
**530 Shaw Boulevard**
**Mandaluyong City 1552**
**Tel no. +632-5349249**
**Fax no. +632-7170605**

**Fourth Rock, Inc.** a group of young, dynamic and hard-working IT professionals invites the following to join its enterprising team:

### WEB APPLICATION DEVELOPERS

- Responsible for systems design, technical specification development, programming and testing of different web applications
- At least two (2) years experience in programming web and business applications, at least one (1) year of which must involve systems analysis and design
- Qualifications include:
  - Intensive experience in these programming tools: Java/J2EE, HTML/CSS, JavaScript, XML/XSLT
  - Proficiency in databases: MSSQL, MySQL
  - Knowledge of Flash and image editors (JPG, GIF, PNG) is an advantage

Qualified applicants must submit their latest comprehensive résumé with attached photo by email to **apply@fourthrock.ph**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# JOB Market

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2005
Philippine Copyright 1995
3 SECTIONS

**JOB*Market*** is exclusively for job advertisements.
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
published every Sunday and distributed in key cities
**RATES** (E-VAT exclusive)
P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
**DEADLINES**
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

THIRD SECTION OF JOB MARKET PEOPLE AT WORK ON PAGES 4 & 5




# JOB FAIR

## @ 5/F ELJ Bldg. ABS-CBN Compound

## November 14, 15, 16 & 17 2005, 9:00AM – 5:00PM

**Successful Candidates Will Be Given Immediate Job Offer and Start on November 16**

**•CUSTOMER SALES AGENTS** **•COLLECTIONS AGENTS**
**•CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS**

- Php 15,000 - 18,000 BASE RATE
- Php 5, 000 UPON REGULARIZATION
- 20% Night Differential
- Free Meal
- Paid Training
- Fun, comfortable and professional working environment
- Php 1, 000 PER SUCCESSFUL REFERRAL
- Medical and Life Insurance
- Fast Career movements
- Performance based bonuses
- Open door policy
- Out of town teambuilding activities

How fun is it to work in RMH?
Let us walk you through.....

**MANAGEMENT**
- Quality Manager
- MIS Manager
- Business Manager
- Operations Manager

**OPERATIONS**
- Directory Assistance Agents
- Telemarketing Agents
- Technical Support Agents

**SUPPORT GROUP**
- Administrative Assistant
- Recruitment Assistant
- Student-Trainees
- Company Doctor

NCO GROUP
RMH
5/F ELJ Bldg. ABS-CBN Cmpd.
Mo. Ignacia St., Quezon City

NCO is the industry leader in providing clients with successful business process outsourcing (BPO) solutions. Our outsourcing portfolio includes accounts receivable management, customer management services, and back office services for a diversified customer base. Since NCO's inception in 1926, our goal has remained constant — to reduce client operating expenses, increase cash flow, and improve their customers' experience. Our best-in-class, results-driven reputation, strong financial track record, and proven business model makes NCO **the** choice for BPO solutions.

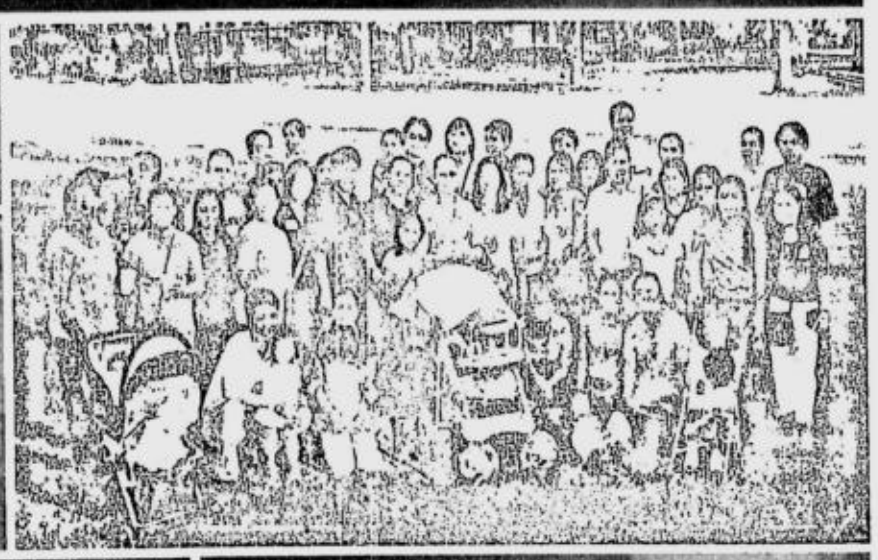
**We will be happy to give you more information:**

**Call Us at:**
**981-7558 - 60**

**Email Us at:**
**manilarecruitment@ncogroup.com**

# HCCA NURSES IN AMERICA

CGFNS or NCLEX + IELTS = US$ 1,000 - 2,400 BONUS!!!



## we offer you

- US$ 1,500 arrival bonus
- US$ 20 - 31.09 competitive salary
- Medical/dental/vision insurance coverage
- Free NCLEX review & travel package
- Free airfare & one month housing in the US
- Interest-free Packet 3 loan for dependents
- Computer lab and lending library in Manila
- Free malpractice insurance
- Acculturation program unmatched in the industry
- Readily accessible HCCA presence, locally and abroad

90 Nurses In 4 months
29 Hi-tech Hospitals
22 Great Cities
7 Exciting States

HCCA Needs 95 Nurses specializing in Med/Surg, & Critical Care/Telemetry

| if you are | then bring your | and apply at |
|---|---|---|
| • Currently employed for at least 6 months in an acute care hospital with at least 150 beds<br>• Fluent in English<br>• Driven to work in the US<br>• Not under contract with another agency recruiting for the US | • Updated resume with a list of cases handled, procedures performed & equipment operated<br>• Originals and photocopies of college diploma, transcript with RLE, valid PRC license, board certificate & subject ratings<br>• Exam results (if any): CGFNS/NCLEX/IELTS/ TOEFL and TSE | The POEA Manpower Registry Division, Window I, G/F Left Wing, Blas F. Ople Building EDSA corner Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City<br>Contact Ms. Blenda or Edwin at the Gov't. Placement Branch telephone numbers: +63.2.722.1174/75<br>Application forms are also available at the HCCA Office, 33/F Tower 1, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Avenue, Makati City Telepone Number +63.2.757.1000 |

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration
"Mag-ingat sa mga illegal recruiters."
http://www.poea.gov.ph
+63.2.722.1174/75

HCCA INTERNATIONAL
WE ARE WHERE YOU ARE
http://www.hccaintl.com
+63.2.757.1000

**Apply Now! Call us at 722.1174/75 or at 757.1000!**

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**KYOCERA**

**Kyocera Asia Pacific Pte., Ltd. Manila Branch,** a dignified and prestigious Japanese firm that is engaged in Sales of Semiconductor is currently expanding its business and is in need of dynamic, aggressive and enthusiastic

## SALES ENGINEER

**Qualifications:**

- Male/Female, 25-30 years of age.
- Mechanical Engineering Graduate.
- With at least two (2) years experience in Sales.
- With extensive knowledge and technical experience in Cutting Tools.
- Hardworking, self-motivated, willing to work under-pressure & result-oriented.
- Proficient in English language both oral and written communications.
- Computer Literate.

Since this is an urgent requirement, please e-mail your resume (simplest format only) at tttici@axti.com or fax to **772-1889** or send at the address stated below not later than **Nov. 20, 2005.**

**KYOCERA c/o Takezawa Technology Transfer & Industrial Consultancy, Inc.**
Unit K 3rd Floor, Westgate Tower, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

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**Elite Garments International, Inc.**
**owner and manufacturer of established brand names for the local and export market**

freeway | s•Lo ENSEMBLES | salsa | 22 BC Twenty Two BC

**JR. FASHION MERCHANDISER**
* Loves fashion & knows current trends in ladieswear
* Will be involved in design dev't & retail merchandising
* W/ experience or exposure in store operations & inventory mgmt, w/ strong organizational skills
* W/artistic background,at least 2-3 yrs work experience
* Mature, with leadership capabilities
* Female, below 30 yrs. old, w/ courses in Fine Arts, Advertising, Marketing, Graphic Arts, Fashion Design Management & related courses

**PRODUCTION ASSISTANT**
* Will monitor sampling process of in-house production
* Will be involved with costing & fabric/accessories monitoring
* Other production related functions
* Female, w/ courses in Industrial Engineering, Garment Technology and related courses

**ACCOUNTING STAFF**
* Female, Accounting Grad, below 30 yrs. old
* With 1 to 2 yrs. exposure on Accounting functions
* Computer literate, knowledge in MS office
* Hardworking & can work with minimum supervision

**Send resumé with credentials or fax/e-mail to:**
**HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT. (HRD)**
**996 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St.(Vito Cruz) Malate, Manila**
**Tels. #525-3593/523-0957 Fax # 521-36-71**
**E-mail: maye@elitegarments.com**

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A HANDICRAFTS MANUFACTURER/ EXPORTER IS IN NEED OF THE FF POSITIONS:

**1. MERCHANDISER**
- male/female
- must have similar experience for at least 1 year
- must be fluent in oral and written english
- knowledge of export documentation is a plus

**2. ACCOUNTING CLERK**
- female
- graduate of B.S. Accounting
- 1 year experience

**3. PRODUCTION MANAGER**
- male
- 2 years experience

Applicants who are residents of Marikina, Cainta, Taytay, Binangonan will be given priority

Interested applicants should call the ff. no. 4512997/4512998/2954897 (look for Cristy or Slony)

---

*A Sports-Oriented Manufacturing Company Is Urgently In Need of the following Qualified Personnel*

**Experienced Pattern Maker**
Male or Female not over 45 years old
With experience in sports manufacturing company
Works fast and accurately
Willing to render overtime & can work under pressure
With good moral character

**Accounting Assistant**
Accounting graduate
Female, Single and not over 30 years old
Pasig resident preferred
Computer Literate (Excel, Word, Powerpoint) & can handle electronic communication
Willing to render overtime & can work under pressure
With good moral character trustworthy

**Production Assistant**
Female, Pasig resident preferred
With extensive background on various sports requirements
Willing to render overtime & can work under pressure
With good moral character and can be trusted

**Computer Graphic Artist**
Male or Female, Pasig resident preferred
With extensive background on various sports quality designs
Knowledge on Corel Program and can handle Electronic Communication
Willing to render overtime & can work under pressure

**Sewers**
Male or Female, Pasig resident preferred
Not over 40 years old
With experience working in a sports manufacturing company
Willing to render overtime & can work under pressure

Please send your Resumé with 2 x 2 colored picture to:
THE GENERAL MANAGER
#105 S. Reyes St. Villa Miguela
Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City
Tel. No. 643-5281
or email at: kobee_hr@yahoo.com.ph

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**Sr. Hairdresser**
**Jr. Hairdresser**

For an upscale Salon/Spa located in a world-class mall soon to open in Greenhills:

- Female, 25 to 35 years old
- Experienced in related field is an advantage but will consider new graduates of hairdressing programs.

**Please send your resumé to:**

24 PA Eisenhower Condominium
No. 7 Eisenhower St., Greenhills
San Juan, Metro Manila
**Attn: Ms. Anna D.**

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**IMMIGRATE TO CANADA**
Richard Nielsen-Barrister & Solicitor / member-Law Society-BC will be in Mla Nov.21-26, 2005; FREE SEMINARS-Nov.21-25-6:30pm & Nov.26-10am
PRIORITY PROCESSING-INVESTORS (3-9 mos)-NOVA SCOTIA - NETWORTH OF $300K TO $799K.
QUEBEC, PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS & SPOUSES, PROVINCIAL NOMINEES (less1yr process),
SKILLED WORKER-U$600 Special Package
Standard Immigration Services Inc. - Suite 704, 7th flr. Ortigas Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Pasig Tel (632)631-1983; Telefax (632)638-4771
Cel: 639174181180; Email: standardphilippines@yahoo.com
www.standardimmigration.com

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VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

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**WANTED IMMEDIATELY**
**PROJECT ENGINEERS**
Male, Civil Engineer; not more than 35 years old; Must have 5 years experience in building construction. Experience in interior finishing works, fit-outs, houses and restaurants an advantage. Must be resourceful and can work under pressure and minimum supervision

**ACCOUNTING STAFF**
Female, 22-28 years old; Accounting graduate, pref. single; Must have at least 2 years exp. in General Accounting. Computer literate. Must work under minimum supervision

ALSO NEEDED: FINISHING FOREMAN, FINISHING CARPENTERS

*Interested applicant may apply at:*
CKI BUILDERS & ENGINEERING SERVICES
#7 Maginhawa St., U.P. Village Diliman, Quezon City

---

**For Immediate Hiring**
**INSPECTOR**
College Graduate
**ACCTG. CLERK**
BSC Acctg. graduate
**ENGINE MECHANIC**
**Pls. apply at:**
SANTRANS CORP.
B5 L5 Mountain Heights
Pangarap, Caloocan City
Tel. No. 939-3239

---

**Rhine**
Rhine Marketing Corporation

*Our company is one of the leading appliance dealers in our country today and we are in need of inidividuals who are results oriented, have strong drive to succeed, and willing to work as our...*

**MANAGEMENT TRAINEES (MT)**

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**
- College Graduate (Any Course)
- Male, Single, and at least 25 years old
- Willing to accept provincial assignments
- Previous experience in credit management and collection preferred but not required

Qualified and interested applicants who have the intense desire to pursue a lucrative career in the appliance industry may personally apply with their Comprehensive Resumé, Transcript of Records and one 2x2 color photo to:

**RHINE MARKETING CORPORATION**
(Look for Mr. Darius E. Castro)
#447 EDSA, Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City
Tel. No. 751-6238; 882-1355; 882-3956

---

**Urgently Needed for Immediate Hiring**
**PERSONAL ASSISTANT**
- Female, 25-35 years old, College Graduate
- Must have at least 2 years secretarial experience
- Must be proficient in computers; internet, Email Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint
- Excellent English verbal & written skills
- Must live in the South ie. P'que. Las Piñas etc.

Job based in Muntinlupa, 4-5 day week. Free meals
Please EMAIL resumé to starsof77@yahoo.com

---

**WEST INDIES Trinidad Tobago**
**in cooperation with EASTMAN & ASSOCIATES LTD.**
**needs:**

**20 CIVIL ENGINEER – USD $2400-$2800**
- Engineering Degree
- Minimum 6-10 years experience in concrete works, roads & drainage
- Costing
- Technical Supervision ability to resolve design problems/challenges
- Knowledge of Civil engineering designs using standard design codes
- Familiar with Standard building Specifications and Codes
- Ability to issue instructions intelligently
- Good command of English language (written/oral)

**20 STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING – USD $2400-$2800**
- Engineering Degree
- Knowledge of Structural Engineering using Standard Designs Code
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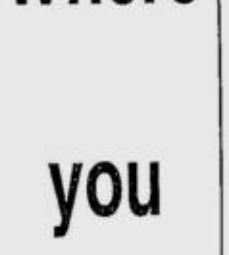

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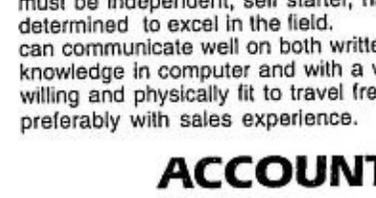


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# How do employees view performance management?

By Brien Villamiel
and Gina Hechanova
*Contributors*

PEOPLE AT WORK *Pulse*

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT typically involves employee awareness of performance expectations, evaluation of performance versus standards, performance feedback, rewards for good performance and attention to employee development.

In this month's People at Work Pulse, readers were asked about performance management practices in their companies. Thirty-eight readers from different work sectors, including garments, real estate, government and utilities, responded. The respondents have a mean age of 35 and an average of seven years working experience. Around 54 percent of the respondents are married and 72 percent are females.

### Results

Of the 38 respondents, 95 percent affirmed that they had targets or measurable goals that defined their job performance. About 72 percent indicated that their superiors discussed these goals and targets with them. These figures show that the respondents were given the opportunity to participate in goal-setting and that both employee and superior agree on these goals.

Slightly more than a third of the respondents (38 percent) were assessed yearly while 24 percent indicated they had monthly reviews and 30 percent had semi-annual reviews. In many cases, the immediate superior assessed the performance of the employee while in some instances, the employees were allowed to evaluate themselves or participated in a multi-rater evaluation system (self, peers and supervisor).

Based on this survey, more companies conduct performance reviews at least once a year. An increase in frequency of performance reviews could mean that the respondents needed frequent assistance to meet their goals or the effective performance of those employees are considered critical to corporate success. Regular monitoring also provides more occasions for problem solving. And the more regular the monitoring employees receive, the more hands-on their supervisors appear to be.

### Links to rewards

When the respondents were asked to complete the statement, "My performance rating determines," about 43 percent indicated that their performance rating helped them identify areas for development and training. Similarly, 43 percent mentioned that monetary benefits such as salary increases, incentive bonuses and promotions, were linked with their performance ratings. Only five percent indicated that their performance ratings were closely related not only to monetary benefits and training and development but with regularization or job tenure as well.

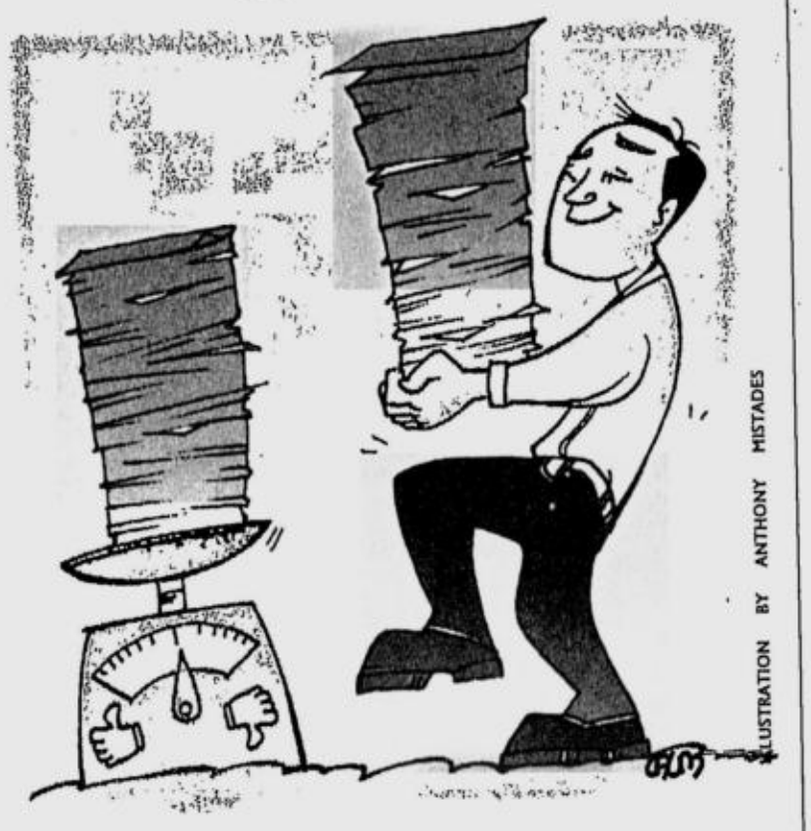

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

Although the sample size was quite small, if reflective of the population, the results show that organizations are becoming more conscious of the need to properly manage their employees. Other organizations can use these results as a benchmark for their own performance management systems (PMS).

### Suggestions

For employees whose com-

HOW/P.5★★★

## *'We want competent sales reps!'*

By Tita Datu Puangco

*Advice* FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

**READING your column has helped me greatly in my work as manager. We will be launching a new product early next year and with the marketing and promotional demands to ensure product awareness and success of the product in the market, we have recruited several marketing assistants and customer and sales reps for the project. Our new hires will, of course, undergo thorough training in terms of product knowledge, how to sell and advertise the product and how to address possible concerns of our future clients. But I believe that this is just training them on a technical level.**

**What I would like them to acquire as well is the skill on how to build customer relationships and have that personal touch when they speak with our target market.**

**My personal experience with telemarketers is that they sound too mechanical or emotionless when they introduce or offer their services. This attitude instantly disinterests me. I would want our staff and new hires to be perceived differently.**

**Every encounter with the client should always be pleasant and personal resulting to more callbacks from them leading to successful sales. Most of our training is done in-house but I am looking at having this type of training outsourced so that we can have fresh ideas. My concern is that I am given very limited budget and time for this additional training for our new hires. Their series of trainings will start in the coming weeks and it would be difficult to pull them out. I am hopeful that you can give me some suggestions on how to go about this without sacrificing the quality of learning of our staff.**

**On a personal level, with the additional people coming in for this project much is also expected of me being their manager. I want to also prepare myself on how to support my staff given the pressure and expectations from management on the successful launch of our product. Thank you very much and more power to you.**

**Busy Manager**

I am appreciative of your positive attitude towards

WE/P.5★★★

# Working mom feels helpless in disciplining kids

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

*Josie O. Santamaria*

**I'M 37 YEARS OLD, AND mother of four children whose ages are 15, 12, 8 and 6. My husband and I are both government employees. We have difficulties making both ends meet.**

**Actually, my problem involves my children. They are not close to us, especially to me, their mother. We live in my mother's house since we can't afford to rent an apartment. My children have no responsibilities in the house because my mother spoils them to no end. We have no say in disciplining our children and feel helpless to correct them, especially my two older children. They pay no attention to us; they don't show respect by greeting us when we arrive from work. When we arrive, they continue to be glued to the TV set. They do not do household tasks even though I have assigned them certain responsibilities since we have no maid. My eldest even shouts at me when I ask her why she doesn't fix and clean up her room. We are shocked to hear our two younger children say cuss words. Is there something which my husband and I can do now?**

**Distraught Mother**

Your children's negative behaviors are habits learned as a result of tolerance by your mother and silence on your part. Silence when a person does a negative behavior is interpreted as approval for the negative behavior. Silence, therefore, reinforces a negative behavior. On the other hand, silence when a person does a positive behavior causes that behavior to be extinguished. This is one of the findings from research on reinforcement.

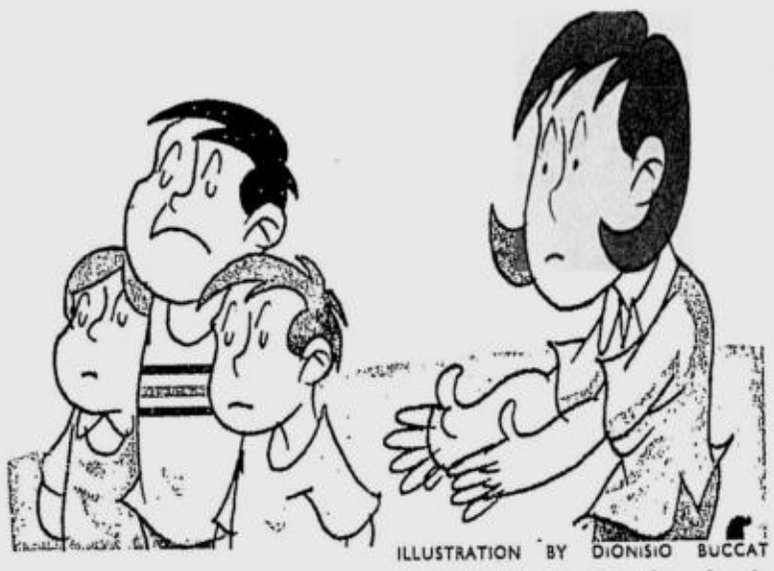

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Yes, you can do something about your children's behavior but do them consistently. Above all, start the change process with yourself. Your mother also has a critical role to play in the change process.

I suggest that you have a one-on-one talk with your mother. Describe to her the behavior of your children and how these affect you. Be prepared for her defensive reaction. Show respect by words and tone of voice. When she becomes defensive, keep silent for a moment and then say, "I'm just concerned and this is why I'm seeking your help on how we can correct this. I admit that I've neglected my duty as mother towards them. And so, Mom, please help me what to do to change their behavior. What do you suggest I do?" Listen to her attentively and summarize what she says.

Follow her advice if it will help you and your husband develop a good relationship with your children. If it does not, you can ask her how it will promote a good relationship between you and your children.

Then, you and your husband can have a one-on-one talk with each of your children, telling them how their behavior affects you and how you feel about them. I suggest the use of "I-messages" such as the following:

"I'm shocked that you shouted at me when I asked you why you didn't clean your room..." Listen to your daughter when she reasons

WORKING/P.5★★★

## *Little things mean a lot*

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

WHEN COMPUTERS WERE STILL A NOVELTY IN OUR COUNtry, I happened to be working in an office where not everybody paid attention to little things. We found it nice of management to allow us to bring our coffee mugs to our office desks as we munched on pizza and donut dinners while chasing deadlines. One day, the computer system just went kaput. Deadline time is panic season enough; how much worse with our system dead?

Our wearying investigation uncovered the culprit—mice had gnawed at the computer cables! Then our homegrown intelligentsia led to the truth: we neglected the small things. Not the mice, but the small chores—putting away our mugs and things. The mice were attracted to the sweet and meaty crumbs, which clung to their paws and transferred to the cables on the floor. The scent on the cables in turn lured the mice to chew on them. So we had our cables changed and from then on management forbade eating inside the computer room.

The above example may be too far removed from the Gospel story but not from its value: faithfulness in small matters. Thoroughness at work can never be overemphasized. Plane crashes have been caused by a lose bolt. Surgery patients have died due to a wad of cotton left inside the body. Companies have gone bankrupt due to poorly monitored petty cash vouchers. Observe workplaces that either fail or can't take off—they're usually manned by people who think big, dream big and act big but whose patience with little things is almost zero. Ambitions must be balanced by hard reality, and hard reality is tested through small matters and little details that seem unimportant but are actually the foundations of successful performance. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

**Gospel: Matthew 25:14-15, 19-21**

*His master said to him, "Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come; share your master's joy."*

## *Faithful in small matters*

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

I WAS IMPRESSED BY THE WORK STYLE OF A PARISH priest under whom I worked in my seminary days—he was very meticulous in preparing every single detail of any parish activity from a simple, regular meeting of catechists to a grand fiesta celebration. He would list down everything needed and every name to be contacted and kept them in a notebook, which was all time kept in his shirt's front pocket.

A passion for excellence must have driven him to such painstaking detailed preparation. His dedication to details was always rewarded with great success in all his activities, which would flow smoothly and bring about the desired results—his and everybody's joy of having a very meaningful activity or celebration.

Success in everyone's work definitely depends on one's dedication, hard work and, I would say, also "faithfulness in small matters." As every matter is made up of tiny molecules, or as "the journey of a thousand miles begins with a step," so, also every activity or work, big or small, consists of details which need to be carefully attended to. Otherwise, when the worker does not thoroughly mind the details of his job, chances are that he will not be able to render efficient work—or he can cause worse things to happen, such as accidents in the workplace. In fact, a failure of the whole machinery could happen due to one improperly tightened bolt or nut.

When the worker is faithful to small details in his job, as Jesus explained in today's Gospel, he will most likely be given greater responsibilities in the company, and the Master will surely reward his fidelity in His kingdom. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

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# Working mom feels helpless in disciplining kids

From page 4★★★

out. Then say, "Is it right for you to shout at me the way you did?"

The opposite of I-message is the accusatory "you" such as, "You shouted at me," "You never greet your father and me," "You are disrespectful," etc.

I'm an advocate of the reinforcement theory in the management of human behavior. This theory states that behaviors are caused (i.e., have stimuli or antecedents) and that they are affected by the consequents they produce. The formula is Stimuli/Antecedent - Behavior - Consequents. If a behavior is followed by a positive consequent, there is a greater likelihood that the behavior will be repeated. If a behavior is followed by a negative consequent, it is likely to be stopped or to decrease in frequency until it disappears.

For example, an antecedent is you telling your daughter to make up her bed and to put the litter on the floor into the trash can. When she does it, you tell her "I'm glad your bed is made up and your floor clean," with a happy face and happy tone of voice. You can shape her positive behavior by reinforcing approximations of the desired behaviors. As an example, you see that your daughter's bedroom is untidy but her bed is made up. The positive reinforcement is for you to commend her for making up her bed and then ask her to remove the garbage on the floor.

A positive consequent or reinforcement is anything—what is said or what is given—that makes a person feel good after doing an action. It may be intrinsic or extrinsic. It is intrinsic if a person feels proud of or is happy about himself after solving a problem or accomplishing a task. It is extrinsic if a person gets rewarded after accomplishing a certain task. The reward could be material, such as money or being given an object, or being allowed a pleasurable activity, such as going to the mall.

I suggest that you use more positive reinforcement on your children in order to open up lines of communication and develop a positive relationship with them. Catch them doing the right thing, or approximately the right thing, and then give immediate and sincere positive reinforcement.

An example of an antecedent is your announcement to your children that if they do specific tasks you draw up with them, you and your husband will take them to the mall on Saturday. The amount of money they receive from you as shopping money must be earned, depending on the tasks they had performed during the week. Being paid a reasonable amount of money for performing tasks communicates to them that money must be earned. In addition to earning money, they are also making you happy because you don't have to do these tasks when you come home tired and exhausted from work and travel. Tell them that they are getting both extrinsic (money) and intrinsic (making you happy and helping you) rewards by doing household chores. Enlist the support and cooperation of your mother on this.

Since you are starting the change process, initially use material rewards or provide them with pleasurable activities as positive reinforcement. Later, as habits are formed and you develop a close relationship, you can switch to the use of intrinsic reinforcement such as, "I'm very happy that you keep your toilet clean and smelling clean. How do you feel when you are able to use a toilet that is clean?"

You need a good deal of self-control in managing your emotions. When confronted with negative behavior, keep quiet, do deep breathing, drink water, and then rehearse what you will say. You and your husband should avoid angry reactions to your children, focusing your attention instead on building a positive relationship.

I suggest that you include quality time with your children in your daily schedule. Your husband should relate with your sons, while you with your daughters. Exert your utmost to avoid nagging, shouting at them, blaming, criticizing, comparing them with other children, etc. And, please don't spoil them by giving them what they want or anticipating what they want in order to "buy" their love. God bless you.

*(Ms Santamaria is president of Career Systems, Inc., which she and her husband Jorge manage with daughter Desiree S. Urbi. Send feedback to* carsys@careersystems. com.ph.*)*

# How do employees view performance ...

From page 4★★★

panies do not have a PMS system, here are some tips:

• Clarify with your boss what he or she expects of you. Ask him or her to be as specific as possible in terms of deliverables, timelines and quality standards.

• If your boss is not the type to give feedback, ask your boss what he or she thinks of your work and how it can be improved.

• Be proactive about looking at ways to develop your competencies. If you know you are weak in a particular competency, ask your boss or a peer to coach you.

Performance management does not necessarily have to be sole responsibility of leaders. Employees have an obligation to clarify what is expected of them. Knowing performance goals and standards will help employees perform better and may prevent conflict and frustration with bosses. Asking feedback from bosses is also a proactive way of ensuring that employees do not repeat mistakes and continue to develop professionally. It is not only bosses who manage employees; employees should manage themselves and their bosses as well.

*(Villamiel is a graduate student in Industrial/Organizatonal Psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. Hechanova is a faculty member of Ateneo and a director of Ateneo CORD. For comments and inquiries, e-mail* ateneocord@admu.edu.ph.)

# *'We want competent sales reps!'*

From page 4★★★

training. Indeed, training is like a concentrated pill that a person takes to speed up learning. However, training has to be actively supported by managerial or supervisory coaching. And this type of support has to happen immediately after the training intervention. Purposeful conversations with your marketing representatives as you catch them doing positive or negative behaviors at work will definitely reinforce classroom learning.

My company would be privileged to customize a program to your requirements. My experience shows that to achieve real results, customer relations programs have several necessary components on top of customer service. These are basic selling, problem solving, decision-making and stress management. The job as you outlined is rather complex because of the demanding customers we have today. Supervisors would also need training in sales coaching to provide support to the representatives.Then, manage the reward system to support the behaviors you want to see.

If you are in a real hurry, you might want to try our one-day training programs that will be running at Netopia Robinson's Galleria towards the second half of the month. Please inquire from our office on specific details of "Wow Customer Service Training" and "The Art of Effective Supervision."

These are inexpensive "no frills" programs that go direct to what you need to know or enhance. We have limited seating capacity of 18 participants a class so as to provide personalized attention. The programs run from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. so your people can be out from the workplace only for a half day. Thanks for writing.

*(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. Call in feedback to tell no.* 892-2895.)

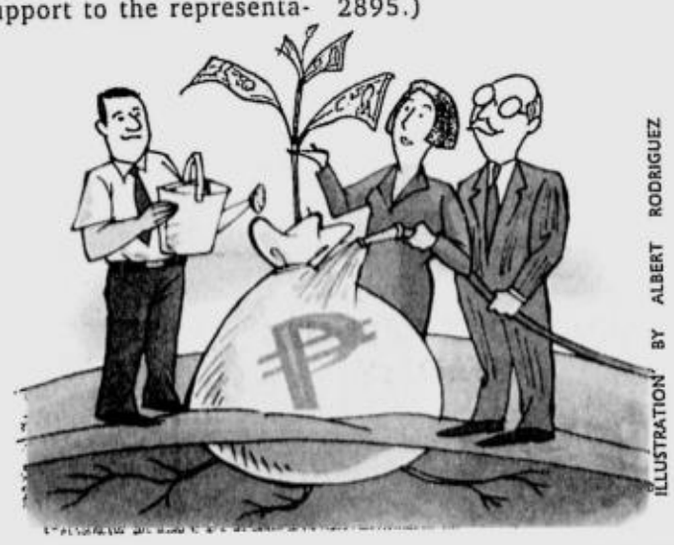

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

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**TO APPLY, VISIT US AT OUR MAKATI OFFICE:** 11th Floor Tower 2, RCBC Plaza Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Please bring an updated resume with photo.

**YOU MAY ALSO VISIT OUR ALABANG RECRUITMENT OFFICE:**
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Interested parties may send their resumé to **Atty. Vivian G. Rubia**, at email address **v_rubia@nkym.com.ph**, or may contact local landline numbers (082) 553-8702 and (082) 553-8703. Attractive salary package awaits qualified applicants.

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**JOIN OUR TEAM AND BE WITH THE BEST!**

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**Cebu Pacific International Language Services**
**Benedicto Bldg. (formerly Harbor View Hotel)**
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or you can send your applications through our e-mail address:
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INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

NOVEMBER 13, 2005

1

e-mail feedback: arts@inquirer.com.ph

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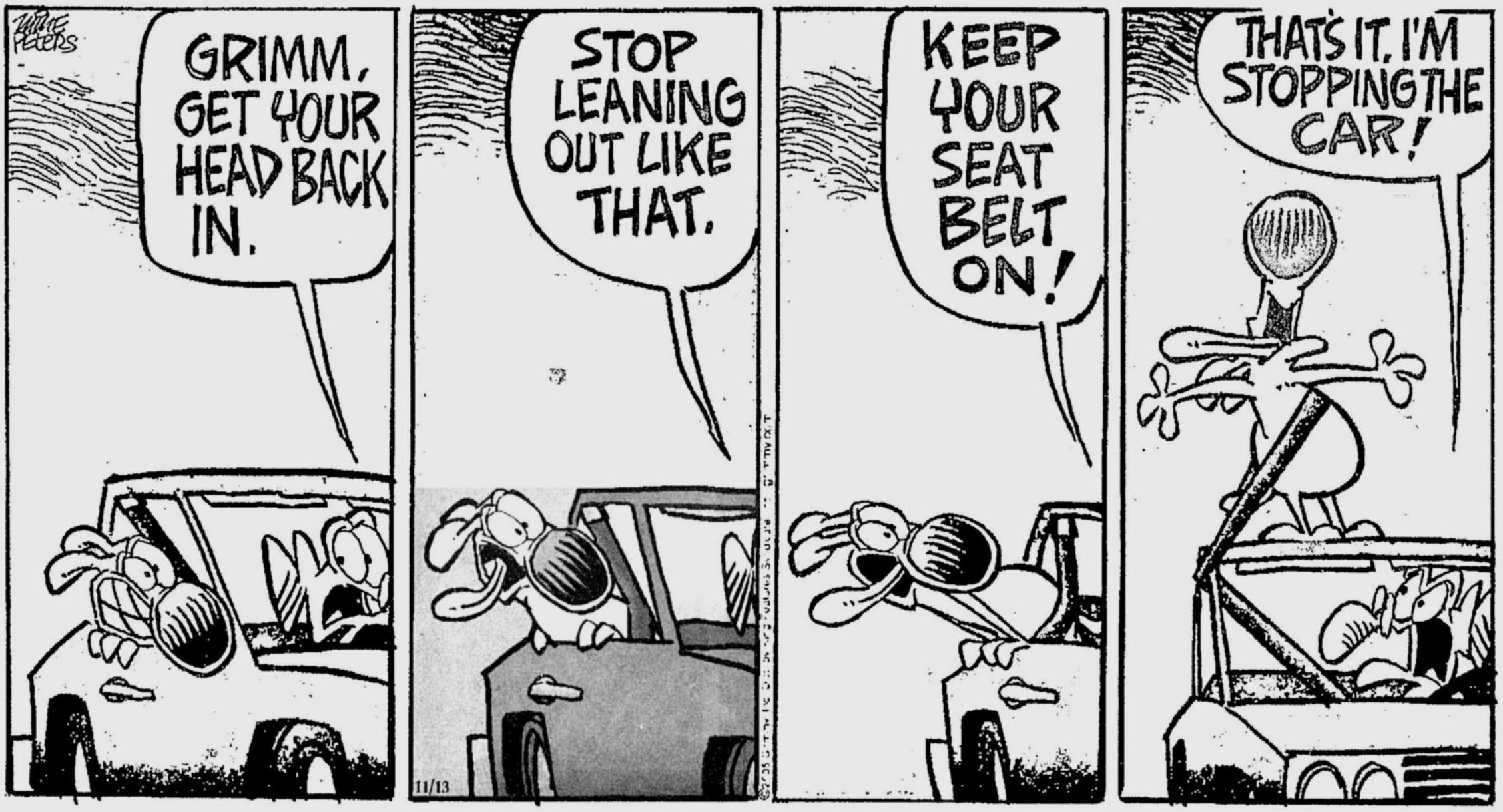
## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS

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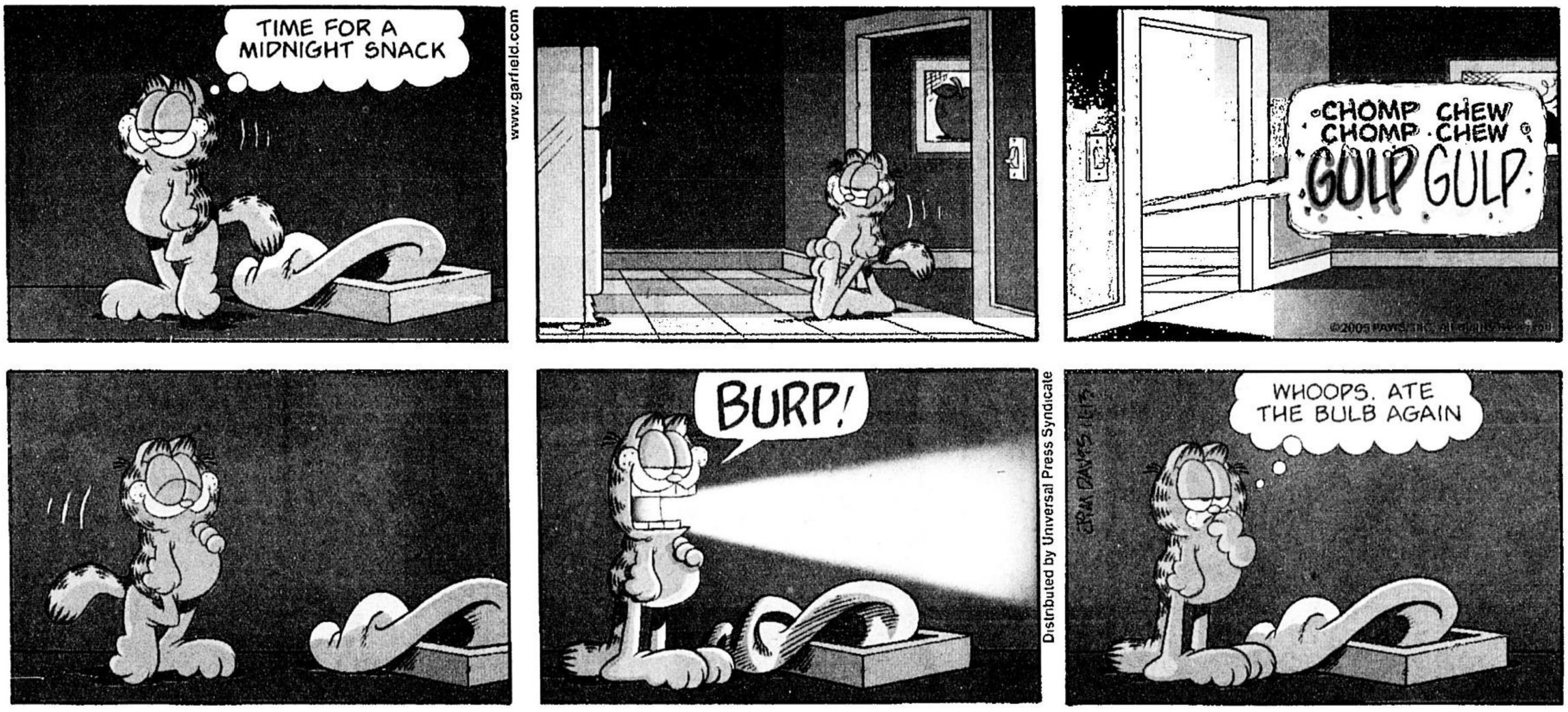
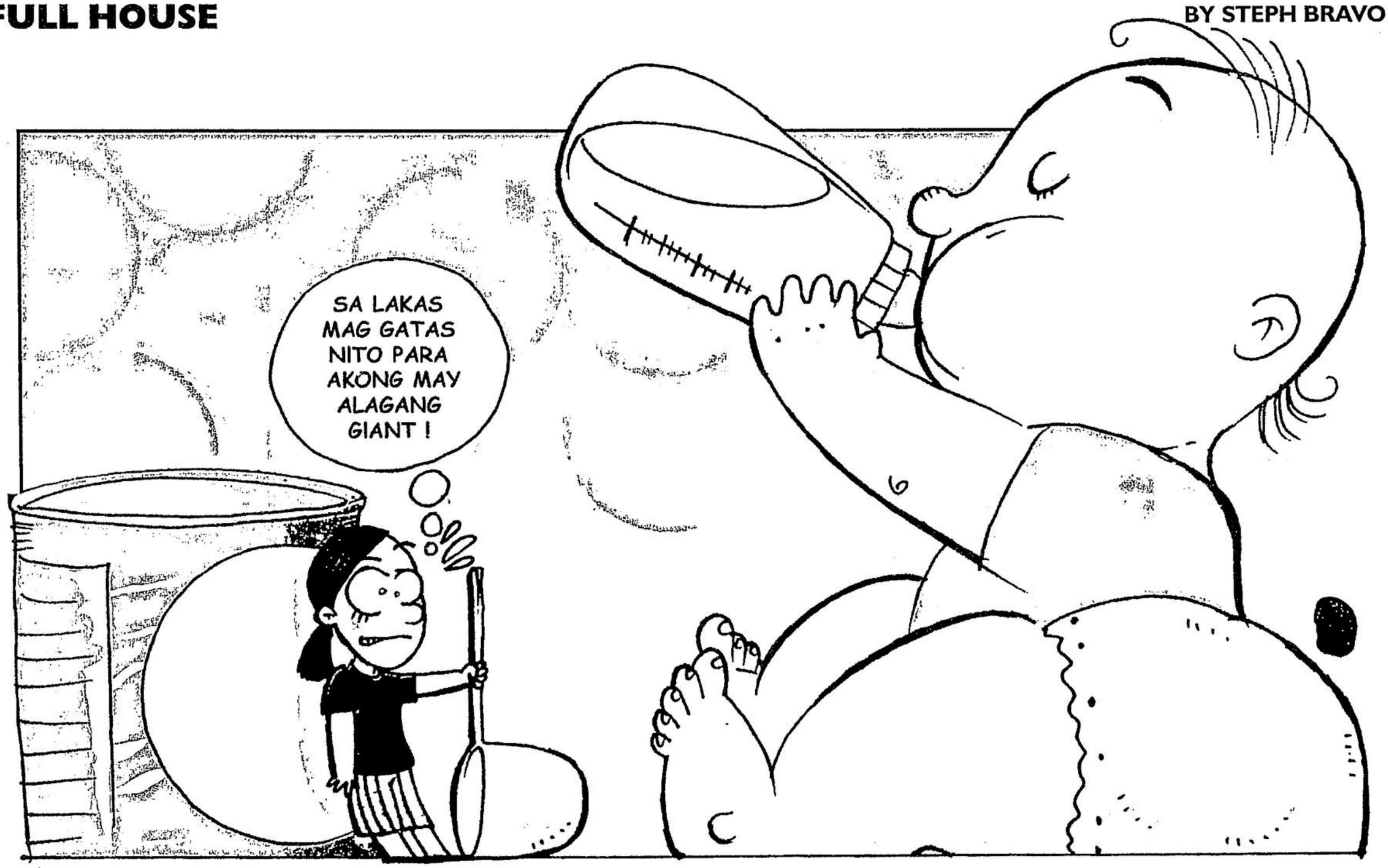



## FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO



November 13, 2005

Sunday INQUIRER magazine

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

A devotion to reading and an enduring friendship led two celebrities to Author's Avenue, a thriving business producing leatherbound journals that writers love to scribble on

MYLENE DIZON and ERICKA FIFE

# From Showbiz to the PaperBiz, These Fast Friends Are Enticing Clients To WriteOn

*by Ruel S. De Vera*
*photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento*

**...l of convergence and ...ngents, the friendship be...ween Mylene Dizon and Er...cka Fife sprung into being almost as a logical progression from their showbiz ties, and yet has led to a most satisfying, unlikely partnership of equals. It is not unlike a thread firmly stitching loose-leaf pages of parchment together to make old-fashioned books.**

Ericka (top) and Mylene mix commerce and camaraderie

That their careers had similar origins and yet lead wildly apart before weaving unerringly to a promising business venture called Author's Avenue, Inc., adds to the texture of this tale. They've always liked to read, with Fife's favorite being Robert Kiyosaki (the "Rich Dad, Poor Dad" novels) and Dizon's being Paulo Coelho ("The Alchemist") and Harper Lee ("To Kill a Mockingbird"). To page 2

T'boli Crafts for a Cause, *p.4*

Gifts from the Bees, *p.7*

# Gifts That Give Back

*Choose any of these alternative Christmas offerings through the Gifts and Graces Fair Trade Foundation Inc., a non-stock, non-profit organization of social entrepreneurs working to market products to support the livelihood programs of selected NGOs working for poverty alleviation. For any inquiries, call Tricia Lichauco at tel. no (0920) 452-5011.*

• Kapitbahayan candles from the St. Claire Patronage for the Sick Poor, made by indigent women benefiting from the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary's livelihood projects.

• Rosaries, soap and candles from the Pangarap Foundation Inc., a Gospel-based integrated ministry for streetchildren and their families.

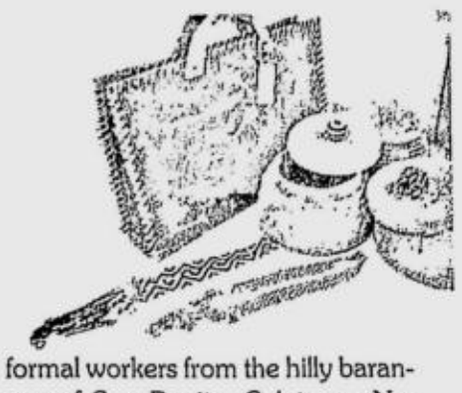
• Handwoven and tie-dyed clothes and accessories from The Development Action for Women Network (DAWN), a non-government organization assisting Filipino women migrants in Japan and their Japanese-Filipino children (JFC).

• Hand-made paper from the Hardin ng Kalikasan Women's Multi-Purpose Cooperative. Made from fallen banana trunks, water lilies, weeds and cogon grass, the paper is made by poor families from Quezon still recovering from the flash-floods.

• Beaded accessories from the Holy Spirit Social Center, Inc., designed and made by the Mangyan women of Sablayan, Oriental Mindoro, the accessories have incorporated modern designs.

• Candles made by released prisoners under the care of the Pag-asa sa Paglaya Multipurpose Cooperative, provide them an honest living as they return to society as free men.

• Native mats and bags woven from pandan and buri from the Pambansang Kalipunan ng mga Manggagawang Impormal sa Pilipinas (PATAMABA). PATAMABA is a non-stock, non-profit NGO composed predominantly of women informal workers from the hilly barangay of San Benito, Calatrava, Negros Occidental.



• Crocheted items, snacks, bags, soap and candles from the Alay Kapwa Kristyanong Komunidad, Inc. under whose supervision, the urban poor communities in Cebu, Paco, Pandacan, Orosa, Sariaya (Quezon), Gen. Trias (Cavite) and

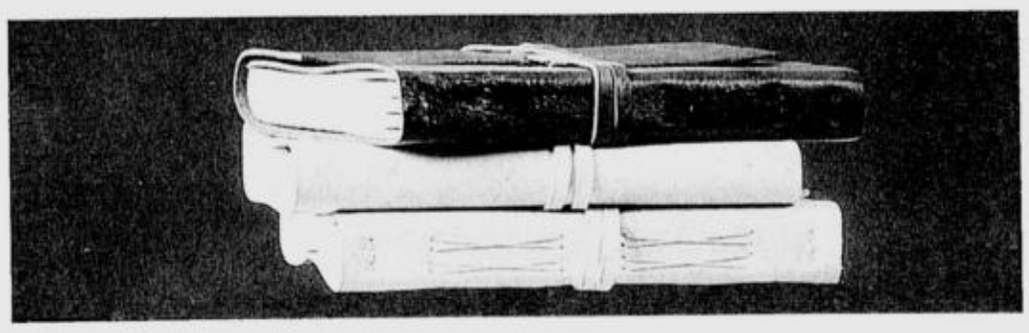
To page 7

# Mylene...*from page 1*

And the two have always enjoyed keeping journals. "Years ago, our trip was going to cafés and writing on anything, even on pieces of paper," Fife says. "Or over scotch and beer." Non-showbiz people are amazed when celebrities can be fast friends and/or have the jones for growing a business. Now that Author's Avenue's exquisite handmade leather journals have fallen into the hands of the penmanship-loving cognoscenti, Dizon and Fife, both youthful twentysomething moms who dote on their children, find themselves immersed in the next chapter of the story.

## Fellow talents

The two do make for quite the contrast. Dizon is the edgy, streetwise purveyor of villainess roles whose sharp looks give one the impression she knows something you don't. Fife



is the giggly, wide-eyed girl whose appeal includes the speedy Taglish she speaks with a twang. They met as fellow talents at ABS-CBN in 1996; the two became so close they wound up sharing a place the next year, even as their careers began moving in vastly different directions.

Dizon, who started out with a teen magazine show called "Kada" (a truncation of "*barkada*"), has been a very busy actress, moving swiftly from the *pa*-cute fare ("G-MiK") to sexier, more sophisticated roles in movies (*"Gatas... Sa Dibdib ng Kaaway,"* directed by Gil Portes) and TV (ABS-CBN's *"Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan"*), and branching out into theater (Metropolitan Theater Guild's "A Midsummer Night's Dream"). Now happily involved with actor Paolo Paraiso, Dizon has a seven-month-old boy named Tomas.

On the other hand, Fife has been out of the showbiz crucible for seven years. She had memorably been part of the groundbreaking first generation of "*Ang*TV" (You can still hear it: "There she was, just walkin' down the street...") and appeared regularly on shows like "Home Along *Da* Riles" before leaving showbiz to give birth to daughter Tatiana, 6. After a stay in the States, Fife handled hosting gigs and began working in production in 1999. "I began working behind the camera as a director and a producer and I absolutely fell in love with it," she says. Fife runs a production house called Around Town Productions.

## Project buddies

Prior to their partnership, the two liked working on crafts, and called themselves "project buddies." Dizon says she "wanted something out of showbusiness because the nature of showbusiness is very erratic." Author's Avenue got its start when the two were just hanging out together. Fife had bought a piece of leather and wrapped a notebook in it, showing her latest project to Dizon afterwards. Dizon, meanwhile, showed Fife a leatherbound journal she had gotten from abroad. Ding, ding, ding, ding, we have a winner!

Starting off with simple ideas in April 2004, the two soon discovered it wasn't as easy as they thought. An education in the right materials and tools went on, and the business exponentially expanded with their experience. "We wanted to use the word avenue, like street," Fife begins. Dizon finishes the sentence: "And at the same time, avenue meaning chosen path."

They made everything by hand first, selling the journals out of Dizon's trunk and directly to friends. Bazaars were logical extensions. Buyers liked the feel of the leather and the thick paper, and the list of clients grew with every text message. Author's Avenue may be growing, but it still possesses all the hallmarks of the home-based business it started out as. They operate from Fife's house in Mandaluyong City. Dizon and Fife are now churning out hundreds of journals, for both individuals ("Ai Ai delas Alas was one of our first big clients," says Dizon) and corporate clients ("Our current rush order is for Toyota," Fife adds).

They run Author's Avenue heavily by feel these days, and inspect everything themselves, with a price range from P250 to P2,500.

This is the fledgling firm's second Christmas, but 2005 is proving to be more than marginally busier than 2004. For example, there's the bazaar at the Hotel Intercontinental on November 13. "We were caught by surprise last year," Fife says. "This year, we're fully stocked, so we're very excited."

## Complex and creative

Inevitably, their work creeps into their time together as friends. Fife has been so busy she hasn't been able to read the Harry Potter book she borrowed from Dizon. Both kept diaries, and regret not being able to religiously maintain them after high school.

Their little hobby-turned-enterprise has turned into something to write home about. Author's Avenue is doing well, and "with all the stress we experience, it can't be a sideline project," Dizon says wryly. "We have dreams for Author's Avenue," Fife continues: a long-term vision of a more diverse product line, though still related to writing and reading as well as a store of their own. "Our real dream is to do a craft show for TV, a la 'Art Attack.'"

These journals effectively hold open a portal to private time, where the edge of fleeing thoughts may be captured and recorded. They also clearly show that these celebrities refuse to be limited by the four corners of the TV they've emerged from. "We want to encourage more people to go back to writing," Mylene Dizon says. "The challenge there is to get people to get back something they have lost." Ericka Fife says that Author's Avenue products appeal to complex, creative people, "those who appreciate the written word, the feel of hand, pen and paper."

*Author's Avenue, Inc.'s leather journals are available at the following outlets: Fully Booked Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati, Fully Booked Promenade, Greenhills, San Juan, Fully Booked Gateway Mall, Cubao Sketchbooks, Greenbelt 3, Makati, Montage, Greenbelt 4, Makati, The Newsstand, Manila Peninsula Hotel, Makati, The Lobby Shop, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati, I Love You Store, Makati Avenue, Makati, Store For All Seasons, Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong and the Chunky Far Flung Gallery, Marikina Shoe Expo, Cubao. For inquiries, e-mail authors_ave@yahoo.com, or call 533-9905 and 0917-8333001.*

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WRONG COVER

I'M Wawi Navarroza, and a feature on me came out on the cover of Sunday INQUIRER Magazine last October 30, 2005 while I was out of the country. I'm grateful for the well-written article by Eric Caruncho and the positive response I got from the people who read it. Anyhow, there's an error on the cover image. Contrary to what was written in the caption, it is NOT a self-portrait but a photo I did for a fashion editorial titled "Back Off The Class" published in Candy magazine (Summit Media) last November 2003. The model was Karen Holdnall. Please publish an erratum, as a courtesy to Candy Magazine and the confused people who flooded me with text messages asking if it was really me on the cover. Thank you very much. Namaste.

**WAWI NAVARROZA**
**Via e-mail**

UPDATE PLEASE

Please update your articles under the Sunday INQUIRER selection on your website.

When I was still in the Philippines, I usually started my week reading the Sunday INQUIRER. I considered it my weekly dose of pop lit.

Now that I am working abroad, I was glad to discover the web version of my favorite magazine. I used to savor this weekly treat until it became stale, with the same articles week in and week out for more than three weeks at a time.

I hope this can be updated soon. I would also like to bring to your attention other weekly columns that need updating.

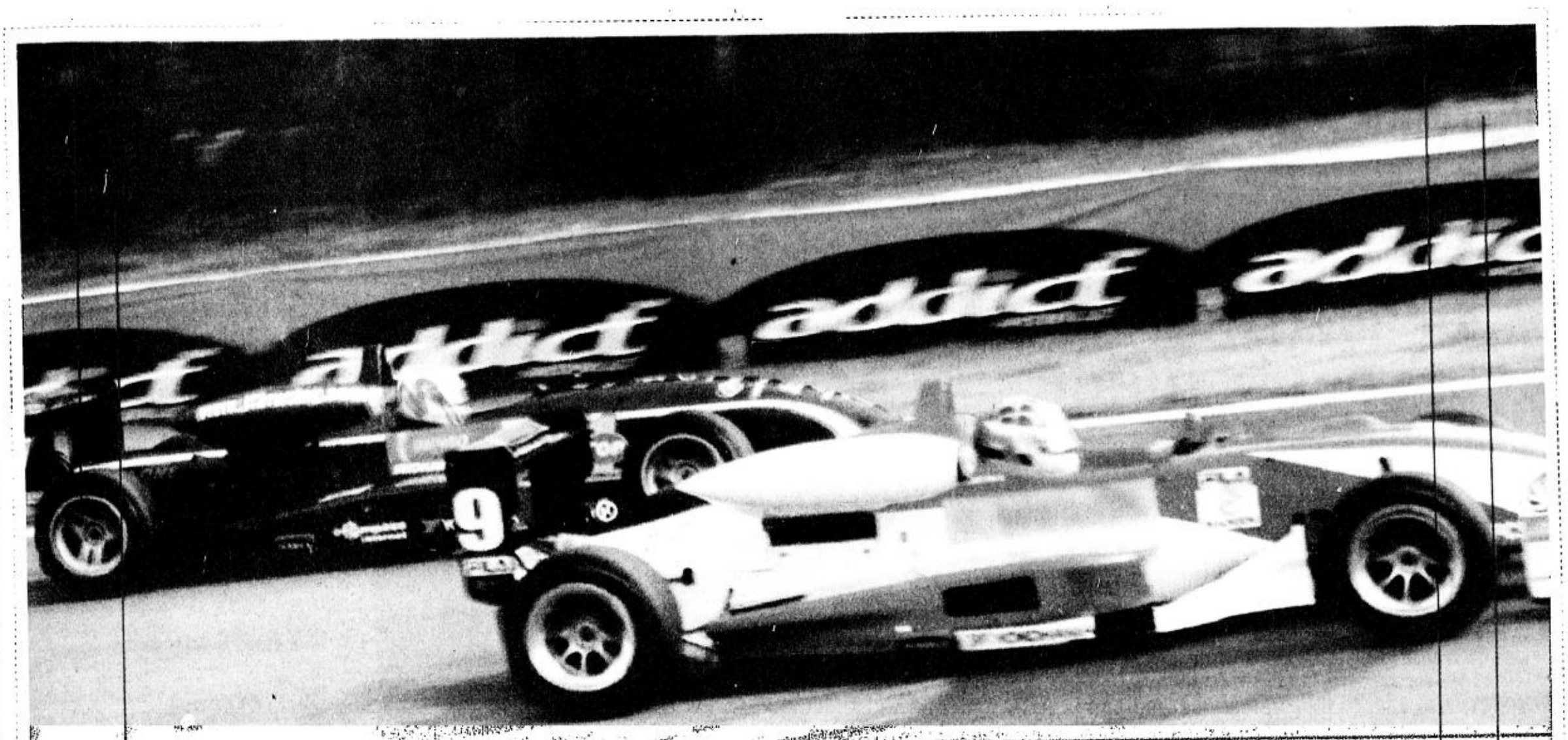
Reading news back home via inq7.net is like being in the Philippines, even for a short period of time on the web. You are doing a great service to the league of Filipino expats, OFWs and the global Filipino community with your web version of the INQUIRER.

Thanks and more power!

**JULIUS BOLINAS**
**Via e-mail**

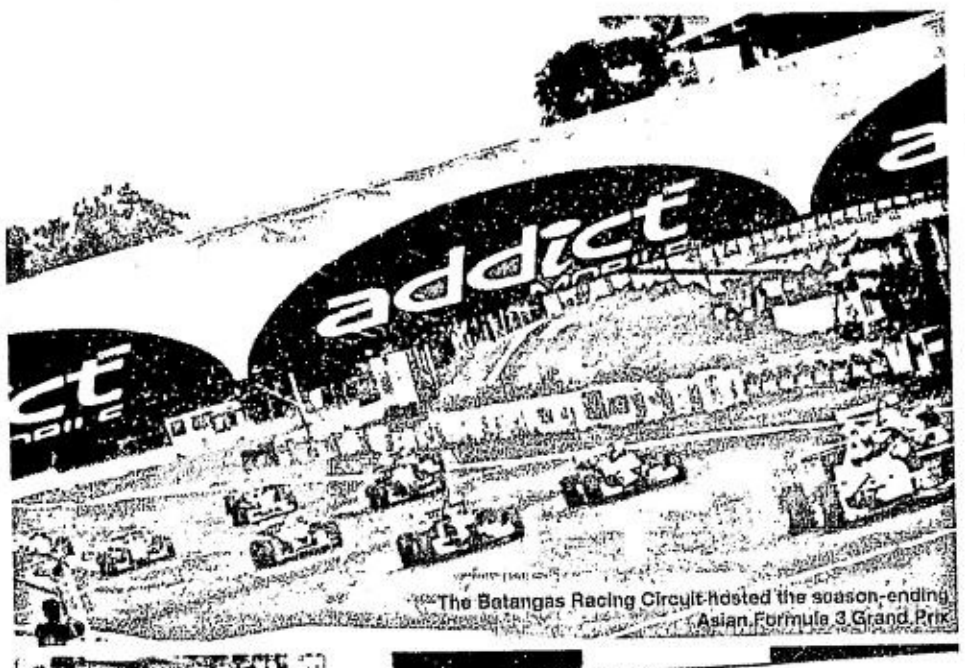
**ERRATUM:**

*Our apologies for giving the wrong telephone number of New Horizons Center in the article "Pages from a Mother's Heart," SIM, 23 October 2005. The correct number is 681-9801—Ed.*




SPEED RUSH

# Addict Mobile Crosses the Finish Line at the 2005 Asian Formula 3 Racing Circuit



The Batangas Racing Circuit hosted the season-ending Asian Formula 3 Grand Prix

The sound is akin to that of thunder. It's predatory, it sends tingles down your spine and sends you looking for cover. Then suddenly, you realize that the thunder is man-made. These aren't forces of nature or beastly, but mechanical marvels. Welcome to the Asian Formula 3 Racing Circuit. Considered a breeding ground for future Formula 1 drivers, the Asian F3 races have given us thrills, spills, and a glimpse into what racing may look like in the future. As the 2005 AF3 closes its doors on another successful season, Addict Mobile was once again showing its full support for this pulse-pounding sport.

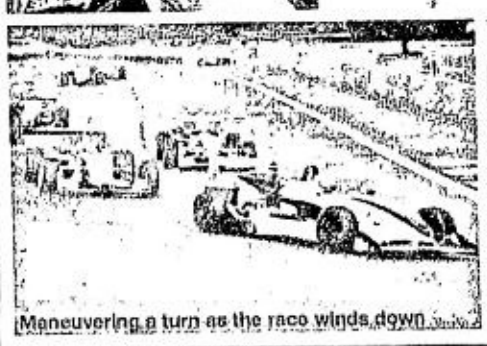
Racing enthusiasts were able to use their Addict Mobile celfones to get all the info they need on the hottest races in Asia by texting AF3 and sending to 622. From China to Indonesia, and all the way to the Philippines, Asian Formula 3 Racing has captured a loyal fanbase which has no plans of losing momentum anytime soon. On November 5-6, 2005, Rounds 11 and 12 were held in our very own Batangas Racing Circuit and Addict Mobile gave racing addicts all the news, race results, trivia, and more until the checkered flag was waved.

Irishman John O'Hara swept the last two races of the AF3 to snatch second place overall from Filipino Tyson Sy and Briton James Winslow. Still, all paled in comparison to Indonesian sensation Ananda Mikola of the Fastron Racing with Threebond team who drew strength from 200 countrymen who trooped to the Batangas Racing Circuit for the Grand Prix. In the Promotions Class, Mikola's brother, Moreno Soeprapto showed that speed and driving skill runs in the family by emerging as champion. Racing for Denso Hanjin Joson F3, Moreno had a huge lead of 49 points over his nearest competitor. Second place went to Greg Murphy followed by Lee Farrell.

A day after the engines had quieted down, the drivers, their racing crews, supporters, and other AF3 lovers headed over to the Rockwell Tent for a glitzy awards ceremony. Amid the handing out of trophies (including overall team champion to Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO), 16 lovely ladies participated in a search for the Miss AF3 2006. 18-year old Charmaine de Guzman eventually won the prized plum, so expect to see a lot of her in next year's races.

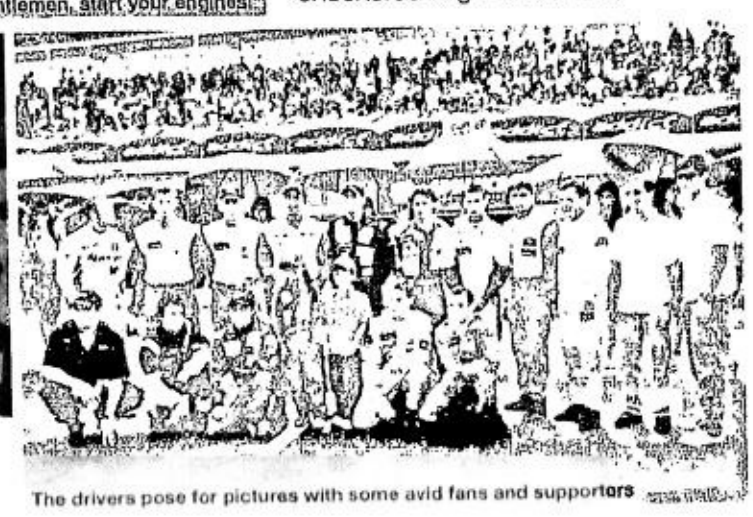
For his part, Mr. Eddie Peña, Chairman of the Board of the Asian Formula 3 Corporation, repeatedly expressed his appreciation and thanks to Addict Mobile and the other sponsors who have made the AF3 races so successful since the inaugural season four years ago. With a growing audience and more talent taking the wheels, the sky truly is the limit for the Asian Formula 3. Watch out as the speed rush will only get more intense in 2006!

Overall champion Ananda Mikola with runners-up John O'Hara and James Winslow


Maneuvering a turn as the race winds down

"Gentlemen, start your engines!"

Promotions Class winner Moreno Soeprapto is flanked by runners-up Lee Farrell and Greg Murphy


The drivers pose for pictures with some avid fans and supporters

Text AF3 to 622

*by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz*

# How This T'boli Maiden Appeased the Gods and Brought Home the Goods

**Bernadette Ofong of Lake Sebu, Cotabato grew up weaving T'nalak cloth using designs from her ancestors' dreams. Today, she and 30 other T'boli women and artisans weave their own dreams for their children's future, through crafts redesigned for contemporary tastes**

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

**LIKE most T'boli girls, Bernadeth Ofong was barely a year old when she was betrothed to the son of a family friend in exchange for the customary dowry.**

"It is quite common for girls in our tribe to marry young," reveals Bernadeth, now 35. Having paid a bride price, the boy's family can claim the girl anytime, but in her case, she recalls, she was 18 when her fiancé came calling. By that time, she had met Mariano Ofong, a schoolmate at the Sta. Cruz Mission School in Lake Sebu, Cotabato.

The smitten Mariano readily raised the original dowry given her parents so that they could return it to the boy's family and claim their daughter back. That T'boli custom satisfied, Bernadeth and Mariano were wed and now have four children, aged 15, 12, 8 and 4. "*Naka-lalaki na kami, kaya tama na.* (We already have a son and that's enough)," she says.

### Sisters' plight

Her experiences as an indigenous woman convinced Bernadeth that something more had to be done to improve the plight of her T'boli sisters, some of whom had settled for becoming the 10th or 11th wife. Having multiple wives is considered prestigious among the T'boli, but dividing a man's shrinking resources among so many wives and children have made life very difficult for the women. "On top of keeping house and earning extra, some wives also complain of being beaten," says Bernadeth.

That was less than a year ago. Today, the women have learned to speak out and insist on decision-making in their household. "They've become more confident now that they're contributing substantially for family support," observes Bernadeth. With the 30 or so women and artisans busy filling up orders for T'nalak products and brass ornaments, the husbands now help take care of the children.

The women too have learned costing, fair pricing, enterprise management and product development, thanks largely to the Non-Timber Forest Products-Task Force (NTFP-TF), a network of grassroots-based non-government organizations that helps upland forest dwellers find sustainable livelihood while conserving their natural resources.

### Eager to help

Nola Andaya of the NTFP met Bernadeth last year and immediately found the high school graduate to be a natural leader. "She was very eager to help out the other women," recalls Andaya, NTFP coordinator for crafts for forest-based groups. Bernadeth, president of the Tribal Women's Council, regularly ventures out to sell her T'nalak weaves and those of the other women to a nearby Lake Sebu resort and the occasional trade fair and exhibit. She was fortunate that her husband wasn't the jealous type, she says of Mariano, who drives a Skylab (motorized pedicab) for a living.

Noting how T'nalak weaves and brass ornaments could be given a modern look to cater to contemporary markets, Andaya linked up the T'bolis with upscale outlets like the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Kish, Souk Gallery and Crossings Department Store. "We wanted to give handicrafts a new image by tapping the highend market, while respecting traditional cultures," she says of ethnic crafts marketed under the Modi (for modern indigenous) brand. With the help of young volunteer designers, the T'nalak weaves and brass ornaments have become both stylish and practical. "But always, the T'boli are consulted before we redesign their products," says Andaya. And they've been very open when it comes to innovations, down to the color harmony, the beading patterns and the product ideas. So far, says Andaya, the only resistance they've encountered from the T'boli is suggesting footwear as a product line. "They'd gladly make any product, *wag lang yung tinatapakan* (they're averse to producing T'boli-inspired crafts that will be stepped on)."

### Dream-based

So far, their product line includes planners and address books, bamboo chimes, tote bags, beaded capelets, photo boxes, dinner bells, CD holders and table runners.

The project is literally heaven-sent, "*hulog ng langit*," says Bernadeth, who adds that the women's extra income goes to their daily food and the children's tuition. "Even young T'boli women try to save up for college by taking beads with them to the dorm," she adds.

On weekends or during their home visits, these students dutifully hand over the finished crafts to their mothers. She herself can only weave one beaded blouse a month, what with the household to take care of, says Bernadeth. The blouses are usually of cotton malong cloth or cotton silk. T'nalak weaves take even longer, because they have to follow the traditional rituals that go with harvesting the abaca plants. "We have to pray to the plant to appease the gods before harvesting it *para magan-dang lumabas* (so things will turn out right)."

The woven designs of lizards and frogs remain traditional and are based on the dreams of our ancestors, she says. That's why no two design patterns are exactly alike, adds Bernadeth, whose own dream is to see T'boli crafts accepted by an even bigger mainstream market.

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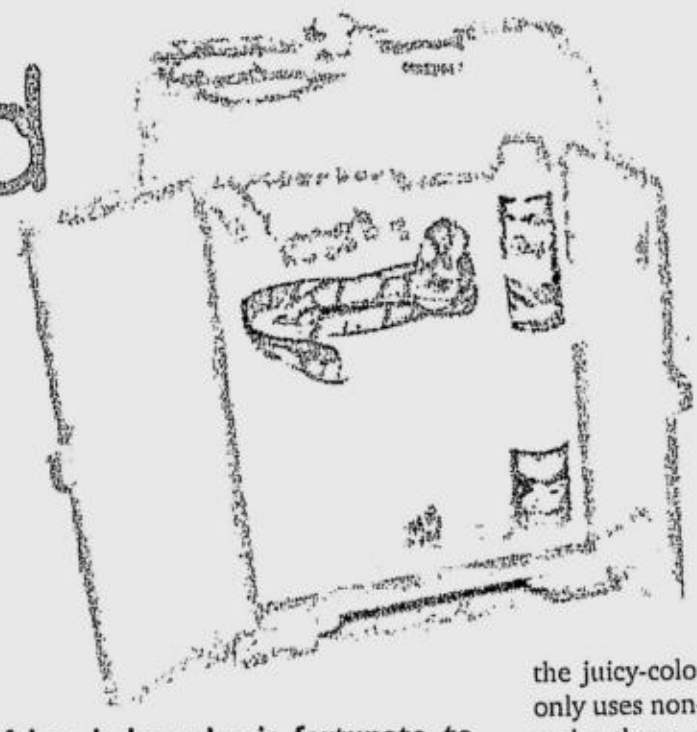
*For more information on Modi products, please contact the NTFP-TF at 92-A Masikap Extension, Bgy. Central, Diliman, QC, 1100, tel. no. 929-3665, or fax no. 632-426-2757. Or log in to their website, http://www.ntfp.org. For orders in Cotabato, please contact Bernadeth Ofong at bernadethofong@yahoo.com.*

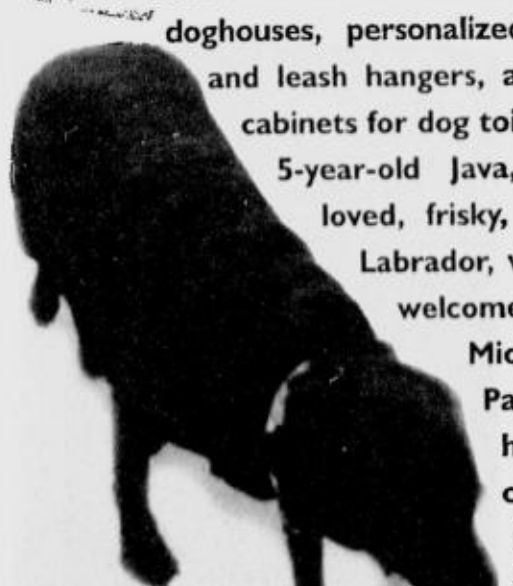
*by Alya B. Honasan*
*photographs by Roger Margallo*

# For the Love of a Furry Friend

**Crafts wiz Michelle Pascual is making dog accessories for doting pet owners—and helping her favorite cause in the process**



**IN AN uncanny way—and this is a compliment—party organizer and crafts wiz Michelle Pascual is very much like the inspiration behind her line of wooden handcrafted doghouses, personalized name tags and leash hangers, and cute mini cabinets for dog toiletries. That's 5-year-old Java, her much-loved, frisky, plump black Labrador, who rushes to welcome visitors to Michelle's Parañaque home. "She's caffeine on four legs!" exclaims the equally engaging Michelle of her baby, who is fortunate to have an owner with a flexible work schedule and thus enough time to spend with her.**



Today, 27-year-old Michelle's company, P Crafters, doesn't just do parties with arts and crafts themes and other events. It's also the name for her fledgling business of custom-made, hand-painted and stenciled doghouses and other canine accessories for dog-loving clientele. The best part is, you can sit down with Michelle and tell her just how you want the juicy-colored stuff to look, and she only uses non-toxic water-based paint to make them, with help from the long-time family carpenter.

### Stray cats

Dogs and crafts have long been a part of this De La Salle Literature graduate's life. One of five sisters, she grew up using her hands for all kinds of crafts and cooking, and had shih tzus for pets before graduating to picking up stray cats. While working as a copywriter in an advertising agency, where she was exposed to advocacy and cause-related marketing—"It allows consumers to fulfill their consumer needs, but still get to help without the hassle," she says—Michelle also acquired Java from a former boss.

Smuggling the then pup to work in a basket, even getting her on the MRT once, strengthened the bond between dog and owner, and pushed Michelle to try to get Java into the Dr. Dog program of the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), the non-profit volunteer organization that rescues and rehabilitates abused animals in Manila. Java didn't



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

by Alya B. Honasan

# Made by hand by the Specially Enabled

**The Cupertino School for Special Children pioneered in the making of handmade paper in the late '70s. Now, over 25 years later, two ladies are making sure that students continue to turn out quality products**

Gifts that help: Cupertino's Therese Macapagal and Bernadette Angala with Cupertino's array of products

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

**THE BEST thing about handmade paper is how natural it looks—uneven, rough, with no need for assembly-line refinement to let the beauty of the fibers shine through. This is precisely what makes handmade paper an ideal livelihood program for the alumni of the Cupertino School for Special Children in Quezon City.**

When the school's occupational therapist was searching for work for the kids back in the late '70s, she found that this was where they excelled, recounts Cupertino's Executive Director Therese Macapagal. "They tried several projects, but this is where the children proved to be most adept. They don't have to compete with the abled."

The concept was that of a sheltered workshop, where the children earn a monthly salary, but still under supervision. They make the products, and the school takes care of selling them. The program now has 15 regular employees and three trainees. "They're here everyday, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.. They punch in and have breaks like a regular job," says Bernadette Angala, director of the handmade paper project.

### Different fulfillment

Macapagal's involvement with the school began when her own son Andre was diagnosed as autistic. She later became the school's director, expanding the curriculum. Angala, an Interior Design graduate of the University of Santo Tomas, first came to Cupertino some 10 years ago to learn about handmade paper. She ended up helping in product design, first on a part-time basis, and now full-time. She has also taken on the job of marketing the products. "The fulfillment you get in this kind of work is different," Angala says. "You see them become so motivated because they have something to do every day, or because there is an order."

The workshop itself is small, but clean and organized. Here, they can turn out as many as 500 sheets of paper a week, each sheet taking a few minutes to make from pulp before it is dried overnight. The making of the final products will depend on the orders, Angala says.

### Special people

One look at the stuff and, as Macapagal says, "You'd never guess they were made by special people." There are Christmas cards with designs executed for free by artists like Larry Alcala and Cheloy Dans, table lamps in a variety of subtle colors, handy paper fans, picture frames, scrapbooks, and SIM's favorite, personalized gift cards to or-

To page 7

make it—Dr. Dogs are tested to make sure they have the right, laid-back temperament, and Java was then deemed a bit too feisty—but Michelle signed on as a PAWS volunteer.

"But since the PAWS office is in Quezon City and I live all the way across town, I wanted to find a different way to get involved." When the family carpenter made a neat pen for Java and friends began asking about having a similar one made, Michelle began producing the smaller items—and donating 10 percent of everything she earns to PAWS.

"Profit isn't really my main motivation," she says. "I just think PAWS is doing a really good thing. At the same time, I get so frustrated that there are so many nice dog supply stores abroad, and not too many choices here." The fact that she gives Manong the carpenter extra income is motivation, as well.

Next on Michelle's list of products for possible development: dog beds and waterproof dog houses. Give her a couple of weeks for orders, and she can deliver to Makati for larger orders. A dog house for smaller dogs would cost around P1,500, cabinets go for P2,000 up, and the signs and leash hangers with your pet's name on it would go for P300 and up, depending on the number of letters used.

"I really didn't know how to take care of my pets before," Michelle recounts. "Being involved with PAWS has helped make me a better and more responsible dog owner, and made me realize what a commitment it is. Now I just want to be able to give something back."

**Doggone: Michelle and her creations, above; her inspiration, Java, bottom left**

*Contact Michelle at P Crafters Network, tel. no. (0916) 759-7232, or e-mail pcrafters@yahoo.com.*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## Getting to Know Fiber

Q: What is dietary fiber?
A: Dietary fiber is a complex carbohydrate found in plants that, when ingested, is not digested but excreted from the body.

Q: Why is fiber important in my diet?
A: Fiber is important because it offers a lot of health benefits: lowers blood cholesterol, helps regulate blood sugar levels, helps control body weight, prevents constipation and promotes bowel regularity

Q: Where can I get fiber?
A: Fruits and vegetables are great sources of fiber. It can also be obtained from wheat, barley, rye, corn and rice, and other whole-grain foods. However, there are also readily-available fiber supplements in the market, like FiberMate, to help augment your daily fiber requirement.

Q: What is Fibermate and how does FiberMate work?
A: Fibermate is a dietary fiber supplement containing psyllium, one of the best sources of dietary fiber. When dissolved in water and ingested, it becomes a gelatinous mass and swells up to 20 times its volume. It traps toxins and harmful residues and flushes them out together with the stool.

Q. How does FiberMate help lower blood cholesterol?
A: It binds with the cholesterol-containing bile acids in the gastrointestinal tract and carries them out of the body as waste. This lowers both total and bad cholesterol levels in the blood - thus reducing the risk of heart disease.

Q: How does Fibermate help regulate blood sugar levels?
A: FiberMate slows down the absorption of carbohydrates so blood sugar is prevented from rising steeply after a meal.

Q: How does Fibermate help control body weight?
A: When FiberMate is taken at least 30 minutes before a meal, it creates a feeling of fullness, thus resulting in less food intake. It also contains very minimal calories.

Q: How does FiberMate help in relieving constipation?
A: FiberMate increases the bulk of the stools and stimulates the large intestines to contract. Because stools are softer and bulkier, evacuation is easier, thus minimizing the strain that usually causes hemorrhoids.

Q: How do I take FiberMate?
A: Mix a heaping teaspoon of FiberMate with a glass of cold water and drink immediately. Drink another glass of water right after. Those taking other medicines should drink FiberMate at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after medicine intake. When taking FiberMate, be sure to drink more water (6 to 8 glasses) to maintain fluid balance.

Q: How much Fibermate do I need in a day?
A: In addition to your regular diet, drinking FiberMate 1 to 3 times daily can help you reach the recommended fiber intake of 25 to 35 grams a day*

*Source: US FDA

Ask your doctor about the many health benefits of fiber.

FiberMate

*Fibermate is available in supermarkets, drugstores, and health-fitness retail outlets*

# GUYITO POWER

***GUYITO, the official mascot of the Philippine Daily INQUIRER, takes centerstage as the newspaper marks its 20th anniversary in December. Festivities will be highlighted by the unveiling of 20 Guyito carabao sculptures based on the character created by chief cartoonist Jess Abrera, and translated into the three-dimensional version by sculptor Juan Sajid Imao.***

*The INQUIRER has invited 20 of the country's veteran and emerging artists to paint the fiberglass sculptures based on the anniversary theme, "The Power of Knowing." They are: Malang, Bencab, Kidlat Tahimik, Fernando Sena, Salvador Convocar, Soler, Steve Santos, Caña, Lydia Velasco, Ernesto Patricio, Bing Siochi, Roel Obemio, Tres Roman, Wilfredo Offemaria, Bin Samonte, Jef Samonte, Romeo Forbes, Rex Tatlonghari, Anton Balao and Jack Salud.*

*The carabao sculptures will be donated to 20 selected cities/municipalities nationwide, to be chosen based on their high schools' rankings in the Regional Finals of the Quiz Bee Competition. Miniature versions of the Guyito sculptures will be given to the top 20 companies that have supported the INQUIRER in the past two decades.*

*From January to May 2006, INQUIRER representatives will visit the 20 selected schools/cities to turn over the sculptures. In addition, an INQUIRER Campus Journalism Workshop will be held in each school. The one-day lecture/workshop will feature INQUIRER reporters, editors and columnists who will discuss specific journalism topics and share their expertise on effective writing, editing and layouting. The number of student participants will be determined by the school's available venue. Delegates will be given a handbook on journalism styles, methods, ethics and best practices.*

*INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez said the complement of anniversary activities underscores the need for knowledge. In marking its 20th year, INQUIRER particularly hopes to motivate students to become achievers. "Through these projects, we hope to inspire the young to value reading and use it as a tool to attaining their dreams."*

*Sunday INQUIRER Magazine profiles the artists who have made the Guyito undertaking possible.*

## Kidlat Tahimik

# A Trojan Carabao to Save Us from Hollywood

*by Elizabeth Lolarga*

**INDEPENDENT filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik (formerly known as Eric de Guia) has always used the metaphor of the Trojan horse to illustrate how Hollywood has taken over Filipino consciousness. In his view, television is the Trojan horse of Western civilization, opening the floodgates inside Filipino living rooms for the entry of American culture.**

"In the last century," says Kidlat, "our indigenous culture has been subverted. Even though our colonial masters are gone, the erosion of old lifestyles continues, and the strongest influence here are the audiovisuals and TV images."

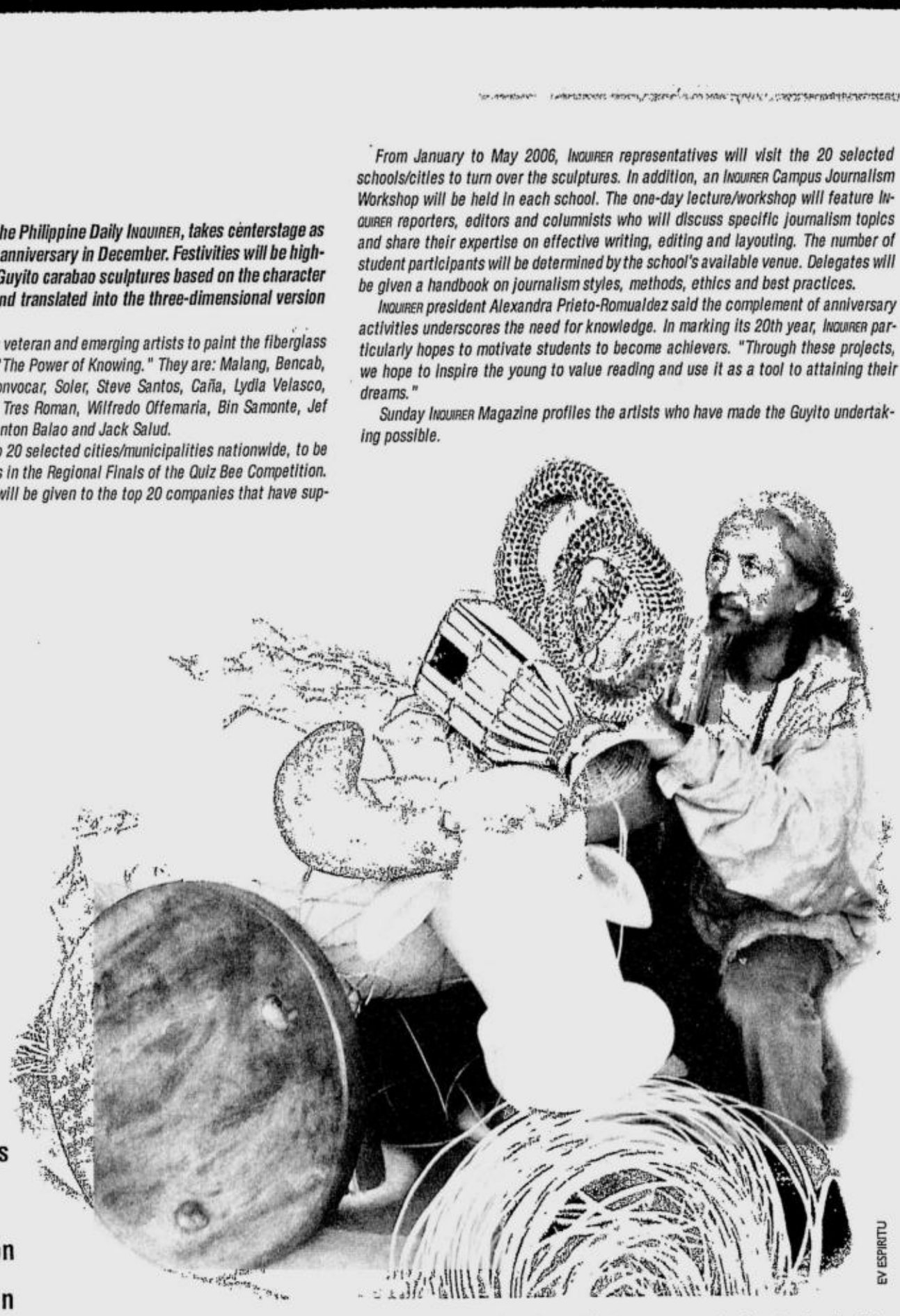
Fortunately for us, there's a Trojan carabao in the form of the INQUIRER mascot Guyito that, according to Kidlat, is helping us look at images relevant to ourselves. "The Trojan Kalabaw is subversive in that it makes us look into our inner selves so we can anchor our stories on indigenous themes and strengths."

Kidlat has been fond of Guyito ever since this creation provided needed relief and balance to the front page's surfeit of bad news. "Guyito is good copy. He has a humorous way of looking at things."

When the all-white resin Guyito was brought up to Baguio, Kidlat decided that it would be a collaborative project that would evolve gradually, the way he gets ideas for his filmmaking projects and the Victor Oteyza Community Art Space on Session Road which he runs.

Shant Verdun, a musician, painted the carabao with light friendly colors of pink and blue. Rattan weavers from Asin, Benguet, Jefferson Himmiwat and mother Aniceta, wove sturdy grass around the carabao's body in the form of spiders, a lizard, the sun and an eye, among others. Rattan, says Kidlat, "looks like a user-friendly armor. It's indigenous, flexible and sturdy. It has a rich texture."

**The filmmaker's antidote to the invasion of American culture: an everyday Pinoy icon wrapped in rattan, with a bamboo camera and a *bahag***



EV ESPIRITU

Between Guyito's horns, a bamboo camera woven by Allan Manalastas is installed. The bamboo camera and the *bahag* (g-string) have always been identified with Kidlat. The camera, he explains, made for an "initial *pangsindak* (shocker) as somehow, spectators like being taken aback by such images."

### An artificial abyss

Other collaborators on the Guyito project include painters Clemente Delim, Leonard Aguinaldo and Jordan Mangosan. Mosaic tiles by Kidlat's youngest son Kabunyan will cover the platform where the beast stands, while Santos Bayucca has added wooden wheels on the sculpture to complete the Trojan horse motif.

Kidlat confesses that he is not technically a visual artist who paints or sculpts. Neither is he confined to filmmaking. But he actively does installation projects and performances. Fine arts, he explains, "came to us as a taught curriculum where you work with oils. We tend to relegate rattan to craft. Plus there's that artificial abyss between arts and crafts."

Kidlat recently represented the country in the Venice Art Biennale in Italy, which ran from June 12 to Nov. 6. Apart from showing his short film, *"Mababangong Bangungot"* (Perfumed Nightmare), he installed a carving under the screen of Inhabian, the Ifugao goddess of the wind who defied the gods.

Kidlat considers it his personal mission to make known such Philippine deities as Inhabian. "Why do we exclude her story? Every feminist would like her," he says. He is pleased that Darna, Mars Ravelo's komiks heroine, is enjoying a revival. But, he adds, he fears we could be falling into "a battle of the cleavage." Another Hollywood touch, no doubt.

## Wilfredo Offemaria

# A Powerful Way to Communicate

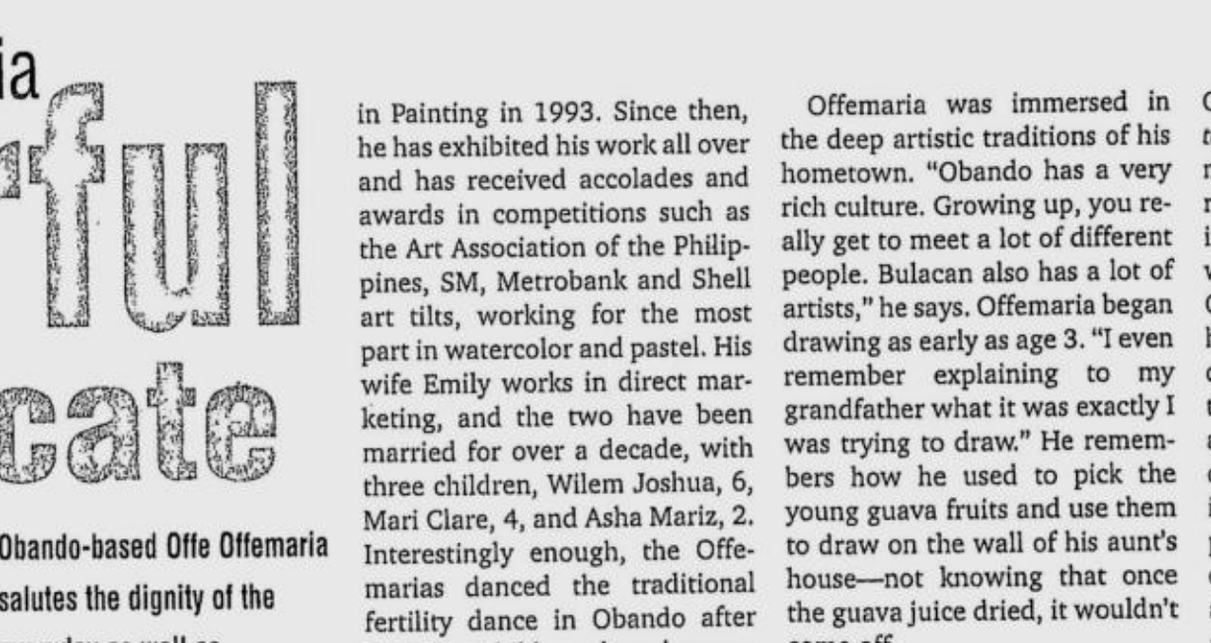
*by Ruel S. De Vera*

**Obando-based Offe Offemaria salutes the dignity of the everyday as well as the joy of gaining knowledge**

**WITH their kind eyes and serene faces, the human figures in Wilfredo Nolasco "Offe" Offemaria Jr.'s paintings are obviously Filipino, and the 33-year-old artist often captures these subjects as they go about their everyday activities. "The theme of most of my work is social relevance," he explains in Filipino. "This is what is happening around us all the time, but we sometimes don't even notice them anymore. I want to show that what looks ordinary can be special."**

In this gentle painterly process, Offemaria celebrates community. A little girl quietly yet happily whiles away the time playing with her doll. A man looks straight at you, pausing in his task of selling cigarettes. A mother holds her baby closely, while two passionate lovers kiss in a whirlwind of strokes. The people seem to glow by themselves.

Born in Obando, Bulacan on July 13, 1972, Offemaria graduated from the University of the Philippines with a Fine Arts degree, majoring in Painting in 1993. Since then, he has exhibited his work all over and has received accolades and awards in competitions such as the Art Association of the Philippines, SM, Metrobank and Shell art tilts, working for the most part in watercolor and pastel. His wife Emily works in direct marketing, and the two have been married for over a decade, with three children, Wilem Joshua, 6, Mari Clare, 4, and Asha Mariz, 2. Interestingly enough, the Offemarias danced the traditional fertility dance in Obando after their first child was born because they wanted a daughter after Wilem.



RUDY ESPERAS

Offemaria was immersed in the deep artistic traditions of his hometown. "Obando has a very rich culture. Growing up, you really get to meet a lot of different people. Bulacan also has a lot of artists," he says. Offemaria began drawing as early as age 3. "I even remember explaining to my grandfather what it was exactly I was trying to draw." He remembers how he used to pick the young guava fruits and use them to draw on the wall of his aunt's house—not knowing that once the guava juice dried, it wouldn't come off.

### Child-like wonder

Offemaria injects the same waves of child-like wonder in his Guyito piece called "*Usapang Bata*" (child's talk). He says that the moment the Guyito statue arrived, the kids adored the carabao immediately, even riding it. "They were sad when it was time for Guyito to go," he says. This was his first time to paint on a three-dimensional surface and it took time to get used to it. "It took me a month to finish it because I can only work on it at night after coming home from the office," he explains. This time, the iconic INQUIRER mascot carries on his back an everyboy chattering away amiably on a tin-can telephone, all done in acrylic. "With my take on Guyito, I wanted to say that communication really is the best way to gain knowledge," he says. "When we talk to each other, we exchange ideas, culture and even viewpoints." The plants "symbolize abundance, the growth that happens when people talk, something that leads to positive results."

True to his roots, Offemaria also founded Supling, a collective of Obando-based artists. Away from Bulacan, Offemaria provides design work for several big apparel lines in Manila. He is looking forward to being part of a group exhibit this December at Gallery 9 at SM Megamall and to holding his one-man show sometime next year. In the present and the future, Wilfredo Nolasco Offemaria Jr. relishes yet another golden opportunity to share in everyone's delight and discovery.

*by Eric S. Caruncho*
*photographs by Rodel Rotoni*

# The Buzz
## How Busy-as-Bees Couple Finds Health and Happiness

The bee's knees: Violaine and Joel Magsaysay show off their honey; some of their products (bottom).

**JOEL and Violaine Magsaysay are just mad about bees. This middle-aged, happily-married couple with four kids has a bee in the bonnet about anything to do with bees, bee keeping, and the wondrous organic health products that can be had from them: virgin honey, honey cider vinegar, bee propolis, bee pollen, royal jelly-even the venom found in the bee's sting, which has been found to be effective in treating a wide range of ailments from gout and arthritis to multiple sclerosis.**

For the past three decades, the couple has been busy as bees, pouring heart and soul into Ilogmaria Honeybee Farms, their 10-hectare Arcadia in the highlands of Silang, Cavite, about an hour's (traffic-free) drive from Manila. Their dedication is beginning to pay off. A buzz has begun to build around Ilogmaria's products, which also include scented candles from beeswax, various soaps, oils, bath salts, and other cosmetics incorporating bee products. So much so that loyal customers are willing to make the drive to Cavite to get their products, or pay shipping costs to have them FedExed.

If conventional business wisdom were to be followed, Ilogmaria would be ripe for expansion, but the Magsaysays say that's not what Ilogmaria is all about. "Small is beautiful," says 50-year-old Joel Magsaysay. "It's better to be a big fish in a small pond than a small fish in the ocean. That's why we're very careful not to go too fast."

### Way of life

This seems to be the key to Ilogmaria's "success": it's not so much a business as a livelihood. For the Magsaysays, keeping bees is not a job, it's a way of life. That's why the couple prefers to do everything by hand, from harvesting honey from their 800 bee colonies to making soap and candles, with a little help from their four children and some neighbors who pitch in from time to time. And that's why they've been able to resist

**Some 30 years ago, Joel Magsaysay shunned corporate life to become a beach bum. Instead, he found a job that has literally become an extended honeymoon: making wonderful products from bees**

having their products distributed in Manila, despite daily calls from interested merchants. Having distributors would mean having to meet production quotas, which would mean having to mechanize and hire regular workers, and therefore more work and more stress.

Thirty years ago, Joel Magsaysay was on the fast track to what most people think of as success. The son of Philippine marketing guru Joe Magsaysay, he held double engineering majors from De La Salle University, and a succession of high-paying jobs in the corporate world. But success, he found out, wasn't all it was cracked up to be. "After a series of hot-shot jobs, I resigned from the last one and became a beach bum," he says.

It might have had something to do with the times. Like many children of the sixties, Magsaysay thought life had something better to offer than the whole dreary round of birth, school, work, death. He had in fact taken part in student rallies in Mendiola, but unlike his more radical friends, he believed in Gandhi's dictum: If you want to change the world, first change yourself.

While windsurfing one day, he and a friend were carried well away from shore, and fearing he wouldn't have the energy to make it back, he asked his friend what they could take to boost their reserves. "Honey and royal jelly," his friend answered.

He was told that another friend, Ian, kept a few bees in his backyard. As it turned out, Ian was not only a neighbor, but one of his father's godchildren. Within weeks, he had invested in his first bee colonies, which he housed in recycled ammunition crates from Clark.

A couple of years later, Magsaysay met future wife Violaine Valera, whose interest in vegetarianism and natural health had also led her to bee-keeping. As a wedding gift, their friend Ian, who was set to immigrate, gave them his bee colonies, and for their literal honeymoon, the newlyweds towed a trailer full of beehives around various flowering spots, harvesting the honey.

### Bee hopeful

With virtually no money to speak of, the couple embarked on their hit-and-miss journey of discovery. Some years, their efforts were rewarded with a bumper crop. On other years, they experienced a drought. The low point came in 1999, when all the harvest yielded was 1/3 drum of honey, next to nothing.

Friends sent messages of encouragement, including a biblical passage from the Book of Jeremiah, which stuck: "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord,' plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'." Magsaysay swears he couldn't explain what happened next, but when they looked at the drum again, he says, the amount of honey had doubled. Someone up there was clearly looking out for them, he figured. Rather than sell the honey, the couple decided to give it free to whoever came asking for it. "Our whole attitude changed," he recalls. "Whatever was given to us, we gave freely to whoever needed it. All of a sudden, things started happening in our lives that we can't explain."

During the lean years, Violaine had begun to make soap, vinegar, candles and other household needs from bee products—more as a cost-cutting measure than anything. As it turned out, this proved to be valuable research and development for what would be Ilogmaria's future product catalog.

It hasn't always been smooth sailing, however. In November last year, Magsaysay rose from his bed early one morning, and promptly keeled over. He had had a stroke during the night, and the right side of his body was paralyzed. Despite an intensive course of medication and physical therapy, progress was excruciatingly slow. When his doctor told him that a particularly expensive medicine which was supposed to repair the arterial damage wasn't working, Magsaysay decided to put his faith in his own products. He began to take larger amounts of bee propolis (a resinous substance with antibiotic properties collected by bees from plants) and royal jelly (a substance produced by worker bees to feed the queen bee, which is said to have several health benefits). Almost immediately, he regained most of the functions of his right arm, he says.

### Sting music

The right leg was still a problem, however. Magsaysay had been going to an acupuncturist for treatment. One day, he decided to try api-puncture—applying bee-stings to the acupuncture points. Apitherapy—the medicinal use of bee venom-had been touted by various schools of traditional medicine as a cure-all, although detractors warn that some people are allergic to bee venom, and that bee stings could prove fatal to sensitive individuals. To his amazement, Magsaysay was able to drive his car the following day with no problem. Today, just a year after his stroke, the only noticeable effect is a slight limp. Magsaysay is quick to point out that he also underwent intensive physiotherapy, as well as conventional medical treatment, in addition to bee therapy. But he is also convinced bee sting therapy, which he says has been practiced by the Chinese for 5,000 years, works.

Today, Ilogmaria Honeybee Farm is a veritable beehive of activity. There is a workshop where the various products are made by hand, and a shop where visitors can place orders. Under construction is what will be the first bee museum in the country, perhaps in Asia, which the Magsaysays hope can help educate visitors on the various aspects of beekeeping when it is finished.

"We're doing something that nobody else is doing, maybe in the world," says Magsaysay. "So far, so good."

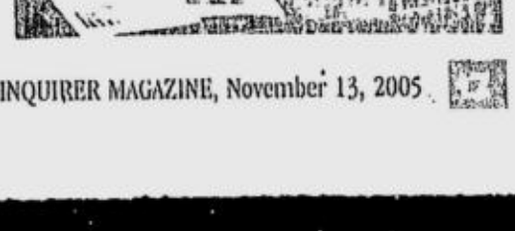
*For more information, check www.ilogmaria.com.*

## Made...*from page 4*

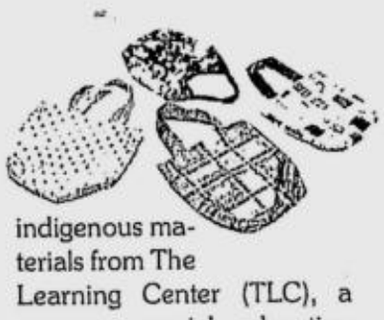
der in four colors, complete with envelopes.

Angala assures they can handle larger orders if given enough lead time. The items are occasionally sold at *tiangges*, bazaars and wherever Curpetino is given free space, but it's best to go shopping at the school itself on Mangyan Road in La Vista, Quezon City. Picture frames sell for P120, lamps from P220 to P490, a set of 100 personalized cards for P1,500 per order, a pack of 10 Christmas cards for P150, scrapbooks for P120 and P300, and fans for P60 each. Every time you give a lovely table lamp or a pastel picture frame as a gift, you're helping a special person stand on his or her own two feet.

*For orders and inquiries, call Bernadette Angala at the Cupertino School, tel. no. 928-4115, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday to Friday*



## Gifts...*from page 2*



Paliparan (Dasmarinas, Cavite) have become more productive and self-reliant.

• Crocheted beads, pillows, napkin rings and wine charms from the Families and Children for Empowerment and Development Inc. (FCED). Made by parents and children in over 12 poor barangays in the districts of Paco and Pandacan.

• Craft items from carabao horn, imported glass and ceramic beads, and other indigenous materials from The Learning Center (TLC), a special education center catering to individuals challenged by autism, Down syndrome, mental retardation, cerebral palsy, AD/HD, and other developmental difficulties. Low, moderate and high functioning adults produce the crafts as part of their therapy.

## *More Gifts For A Cause*

*heck out these other groups for gifts that make you feel as blessed as the receiver.*

• Organic garden kit, mountain rice, muscovado sugar, peanut butter with pili, organic coffee, honey-vinegar wine, mango chips, banana strings, calamansi concentrate, bottledsardinesand native baskets from the agrarian reform communities, NGOs and upland tribal groups being assisted by the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP). Contact Rene Guarin, 0928-359-3849, wdst@yahoo.com.

• "Guitara, Lapis, Atbp.," music CD by Joey Ayala and Noel Cabangon. Proceeds go to PBSP Mindanao Education Projects. Available at Music One and Tower Records.

• Christmas cards to reforest Cebu's watershed and other areas in the Visayas.For more information, contact Ruth Honculada of PBSP, Tel. 632-527-3741, or check out www.pbsp.org.ph

• Health baskets and gift packs from Nadine Tengco's i-health-Nlite support farmers and cooperatives, as well as projects of Preda Foundation, which provides assistance to juvenile offenders. The health baskets have various product themes such as weight loss, sports, South Beach diet, women's health, positively pregnant, smoke no more and fit over 50. Priced from P200 to P4000, the items include organic teas, high fiber snacks, soymilk, carrot juice, virgin coconut oil, tarragon vinegar, garlic capsules, massage oil, dried fruits, ginger candy, sunblock, olive oil, foot scrub, CDs on yoga, sugar-free pastries, stress ball, etc. To order, call 632-636-6804 to 05 (fax), email sales@ihealthcircle.com, nlitegifts@ihealthcircle.com, or visit www.ihealthcircle.com

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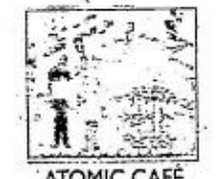
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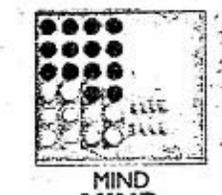
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